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**CHANGES IN THE RURAL SPATIAL ECONOMY OF AN ENGLISH  
COUNTY (SOMERSET 1947-1980)**

**Elizabeth A. Mills  
Department of Geography**

**A thesis submitted to the University of Bristol in accordance with the  
requirements for the Degree of PhD in the Faculty of Social Sciences**

**July 1988**

## APPENDIX 1 BRACEY'S 1947 QUESTIONNAIRE

Parish ..... *Clewsake* ..... Investigator  
 Rural District ..... *Clutton* ..... Name ..... *T. H. Payne Esq.* .....  
 Parish Population, 1931 ..... *605* ..... Address ..... *Compton House* .....  
 No. of Houses in Parish, 1931 ..... *185* ..... *Clewsake, N. Glos.* .....  
 Estimate of No. of houses in Village, 1946 ..... *196* ..... Representing ..... *BRISTOL* .....

## UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS - Professor W. HAMILTON WHYTE, M.A.

## Research Fellow :

JOHN MADGE, M.A., A.R.I.B.A.

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Miss K. LIEPMANN, Ph.D., Associate

H. E. BRACEY, M.Sc., Associate

Mrs. S. J. JONES, B.Sc., Assistant

Miss B. D. FOWERAKER, B.A., Assistant

RECONSTRUCTION RESEARCH GROUP,  
THE UNIVERSITY,

BRISTOL, S.

Bristol 24932

January, 1947.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I would like to enlist your aid in an examination I am making of the social framework of rural society in Somerset.

It is very clear from a similar survey which I have just undertaken in Wiltshire that in certain villages the general standard of social provision is much below that which is usually considered desirable for satisfactory living. It is equally clear that some villages have developed healthy, virile social life in spite of relative isolation, small numbers, and a general lack of those amenities usually considered essential to such growth.

Briefly, I wish to ascertain the standard of provision of public utility services, the scope of the commercial facilities, and professional services, and the extent to which social organisations have been able to withstand the shock of modern forces.

I wonder if you would be good enough to complete as much as possible of the questionnaire set out overleaf. In most cases the replies can be answered by a simple "yes" or "no," but I would appreciate any further information which you can supply about any item. If, for instance, radio, car and cycle repairing are carried on by one business I would be glad if you would indicate this by replying to question C.4 as follows:—"Yes—also C.5 and C.6." The last page could be used for any further amplification.

I enclose a postcard on which I would be glad if you would signify your willingness to co-operate in this important investigation, and a stamped addressed label for the return of the questionnaire. If, for any reason, you are unable to assist me, I would welcome the address of someone competent and willing to do so.

Yours faithfully,

P. P. H. E. Bracey

C.W.

# A. PUBLIC UTILITY SERVICES

- 1 —Name of ELECTRICITY Supply Undertaking *NORTH SOMERSET ELECTRIC SUPPLY*
- 2 Name of GAS " " *NONE*
- 3 Name of WATER " " *CLUTTON RURAL DIST. COUNCIL*
- 4 Is PIPED WATER available (a) in most houses? YES ~~NO~~  
or (b) at stand pipes only? ~~YES~~ NO
- 5 Is main SEWER connected to most houses? ~~YES~~ NO
- 6 How frequent is HOUSEHOLD REFUSE COLLECTION? *Once* every *week*
- 7 Which of the following are there (a) PUBLIC TELEPHONE CALL BOX YES ~~NO~~  
(b) POLICE STN or COTTAGE YES ~~NO~~ (c) POST OFFICE YES ~~NO~~ (d) FIRE STATION ~~YES~~ NO

# B. PROFESSIONAL AND SIMILAR SERVICES

- 1 Is there a(n) Doctor's Surgery? YES NO How many days a week?
- 2 " " " Dental Surgery? ~~YES~~ NO " " " "
- 3 " " " Veterinary Surgery? YES ~~NO~~ " " " " *RESIDENT*
- 4 " " " Qualified Chemist? ~~YES~~ NO " " " "
- 5 " " " Qualified Optician? ~~YES~~ NO " " " "
- 6 " " " Solicitor's Office? ~~YES~~ NO " " " "
- 7 " " " Auctioneer's Office? ~~YES~~ NO " " " *once a month.*
- 8 " " " Child Welfare Clinic? YES ~~NO~~ " " "
- 9 " " " District Nurse? YES ~~NO~~ Does she live in the parish? YES ~~NO~~
- 10 What Hospital is usually used? *BRISTOL ROYAL HOSPITALS*

# C. ARTISAN SERVICES. Is there a CRAFTSMAN living in the village who undertakes —

- 1 Household Repairs? YES ~~NO~~ 2 Blacksmith's Work? ~~YES~~ NO 3 Chimney Sweep? ~~YES~~ NO
- 4 Repair of (a) Cars YES ~~NO~~ (b) Cycles YES ~~NO~~ (c) Radio Sets? YES ~~NO~~
- 5 Shoe repairing? YES ~~NO~~
- 6 Hairdressing? (a) Gents YES ~~NO~~ (b) Ladies ~~YES~~ NO

# D. COMMERCIAL SERVICES. How many of each of the following shops are there —

- 1 General Shop? *2* 2 Grocer's? *2* 3 Butcher's? *NONE*
- 4 Baker's? *none* 5 Ironmonger's? *NONE* 6 Draper's? *2 in Grand Shop*
- 7 Greengrocer's? *none* 8 Dairy? *1* 9 Jeweller's? *none*

# E. LOCAL OPEN SPACE. Are there any of the following?

- 1 School Playing Field? *NO* ~~YES~~ 2 Park or Recreation Ground? ~~YES~~ NO
- 3 Common Land? YES ~~NO~~ 4 Allotments? .. .. YES ~~NO~~

# F. TRANSPORT TO THE NEAREST TOWN 1 Name of Town. *BRISTOL* Distance *10* mls.

- 2 How far is the nearest (a) Bus stop? *3 in centre of village* (b) Railway Station? *NO*
- 3 How many buses EACH WAY are there PER DAY on (a) week-day? *2 2* .. ..  
(b) Market-day? *2 2* (c) Saturday? *2 2*
- 4 How many trains EACH WAY are there PER DAY? (a) week-day? *NONE* (b) Sunday? *none*
- 5 Can the town be reached on week-day by bus or train by (a) 8 a.m.? YES NO (b) 9 a.m.? YES ~~NO~~
- 6 What time does the LAST bus or train leave town  
(a) during the week? *9-20 PM* (b) on Saturday? *9-20* .. ..
- 7 Is a Car Hire Service available? YES ~~NO~~
- 8 Details of any special LOCAL TRANSPORT arrangements made on Market-day or Saturday  
*NONE*



G. PLACES OF ASSEMBLY. Are there the following :—

1. Anglican Church ? ... YES...~~NO~~ 2. Roman Catholic Church ? ... YES...~~NO~~
3. Non-Conformist Churches ? (give denominations) ..METHODIST CHURCH.....
4. Public House ? (Number) .....3..... 5. Cinema ? one show weekly YES...~~NO~~
6. Café (Number) .....NONE..... 7. County Library Branch ? ..... YES...~~NO~~
8. School ? (type—Junior, Senior, all ages) .....JUNIOR.....
9. Village Hall ? (a) Name RECTORY HALL (b) Owner THE RECTOR
- (c) Games equipment ? YES (d) Stage ? YES CHURCH EX-SERVICE MEN
- (e) Canteen ? .....NO..... (f) Seating capacity = 230 persons
- (g) Type of heating ? STOVES (h) Approx. dimensions 25' x 46'
- (i) Construction, Brick, Stone, Wood ? Wood and 20' x 60'  
SAVED IRON.

10. Other Public Rooms ?

Name CLUB ROOM Controlling Organisation STOKE INN Seating 60 persons  
 " " " " " "  
 " " " " " "

H. SOCIAL ORGANISATIONS. Which of the following are there :—

1. Musical Society ? ~~YES~~...~~NO~~ Held at .....
2. Dramatic Society ? ~~YES~~...~~NO~~ Held at .....
3. W.E.A. Group ? YES...~~NO~~ Held at RECREATION ROOM
4. Listening, Discussion or similar Group ? ~~YES~~...~~NO~~ Held at .....
5. Boys Scouts or similar ? .....NO..... Held at .....
6. Girl Guides or similar ? .....NO..... Held at .....
7. Youth Club for (a) Boys ? .....~~YES~~...~~NO~~ Held at .....
- (b) Girls ? .....~~YES~~...~~NO~~ Held at .....
8. Sunday School. Denomination ? TWO: METHODIST & ANGLICAN CHURCH
9. Women's Institute ? YES...~~NO~~ Held at RECREATION ROOM
10. British Legion or similar ex-Service organisations ? .....BRITISH LEGION.....  
 Held at STOKE INN
11. Any other ADULT Organisation ? .....NO.....
12. Cricket Club ? .....~~YES~~...~~NO~~ 13. Football Club ? .....~~YES~~...~~NO~~
14. Tennis Club ? .....~~YES~~...~~NO~~ 15. Hockey Club ? .....~~YES~~...~~NO~~
16. Bowls Club ? .....~~YES~~...~~NO~~ 17. Fishing Club ? .....~~YES~~...~~NO~~
18. Any Political Clubs ? YES.....YOUNG CONSERVATIVES.....
19. Regular dances ? YES...~~NO~~ Who are sponsors ? CRICKET & FOOTBALL CLUBS  
 How frequent ? MONTHLY Held at Both HALLS A & B
20. Regular Whist Drives ? YES...~~NO~~ Who are sponsors ? W.I. & RECREATION ROOM  
 How frequent ? MONTHLY Held at RECREATION ROOM COMMITTEE
21. General Entertainment Committee ? .....NO..... 22. Voluntary Nursing Group ? YES.....
23. Hospital Savings Group ? YES..... 24. National Savings Group ? YES.....

I. MISCELLANEOUS.

1. Is there an officially constituted Parish Council ? .....YES.....
2. Can you give the number of houses built in the parish since 1931 ? .....11.....
3. What industries employing more than two persons are there besides agriculture in the parish, e.g., factory, workshop, quarrying, peat cutting, etc. ?

Industry

Number of Employees

MENDIPS PURITY MILK CO

45

WINFORD IRON ORE and

OXIDE CO

25

(MILLS and Works in the area)

## APPENDIX 2 BRACEY'S 1950 QUESTIONNAIRE

<u>FOR OFFICE USE</u>		Investigator
Name of Parish..	<i>Combe Hay</i>	Mrs. <i>E.M. Palmer</i>
R.D. ..	<i>Bathurst</i>	<i>Headmistress</i>
Pop. (1931) ..	<i>158</i> (Est. 1950) ..	

Town(s)/village(s) commonly visited for shopping etc.

(a) ..... miles by road

(b) *Bath* ..... *4 1/2* miles by road

(c) ..... miles by road

(d) ..... miles by road

Note List general shop as grocery. Counter = a counter set apart for the sale of the commodities below. Indicate Co-op shop or counter as 2 + 1C, i.e., 1 Co-op and 2 other shops.

Shop or Service	No. In Parish		Tradesmen delivering these commodities at least once a week from other Towns and Parishes. Give NUMBER of tradesmen & PLACE		
	Shops	Counters in OTHER Shops			
Grocery	<i>1</i>		<i>a two from Bath</i>	<i>c</i>	
Meat	<i>7</i>		<i>a four</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>c</i>
Bread			<i>a four</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>c</i>
Wet Fish			<i>a one</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>c</i>
Fried Fish			<i>a —</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>c</i>
Greengrocery			<i>a one</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>c</i>
Shop or Service	No. In Parish		Other Towns and Parishes commonly visited for these articles and services.		
	Shops	Counters in OTHER Shops			
Drapery	<i>7</i>		<i>a</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>c</i>
Gents' Outfitt			<i>a</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>c</i>
Ladies' "			<i>a</i> <i>Bath</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>c</i>
Tailor			<i>a</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>c</i>
Dressmaker			<i>a</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>c</i>
Boots & Shoes			<i>a</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>c</i>
Shoe Repairer			<i>a Bath</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>c</i>
Newsagent	<i>1</i>		<i>from Bath</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>c</i>
Hardware	<i>1</i>		<i>a</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>c</i>
Elect. Goods			<i>a</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>c</i>
Radio Sets	<i>1</i>		<i>a</i> <i>Bath</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>c</i>
Furniture			<i>a</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>c</i>
Cycle Shops			<i>a</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>c</i>
Hairdresser:					
Men	<i>2</i>		<i>a Odd Down</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>c</i>
Women	<i>2</i>		<i>a Bath</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>c</i>
Blacksmith			<i>a</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>c</i>
Undertaker			<i>a Bath</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>c</i>
Laundry Depot	<i>1</i>		<i>a</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>c</i>
Coal Order *			<i>a 4</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>c</i>

\* Enter towns and parishes from which coal and laundry are delivered.

Hotels & Public Houses...! Off-Licence Premises (incl. Grocers, etc)....  
Cafes and Restaurants .... Premises with sign "Teas" one

Market towns used by local farmers for:

1. Store cattle a. Bath..... b..... c.....
2. General produce a. "..... b..... c.....
3. Farm supplies a. "..... b..... c.....

The local branch of the National Farmers' Union meets at Bath.....

Weekly Newspapers giving regular news of the parish are published in

a. Bath..... b..... c.....

Number of Doctors with surgery in parish ....

Other Doctors visiting from a. Combe Down b. Peardown...

c..... d.....

Other Services	No. in Parish	Other Towns and Parishes commonly visited for these services		
Dentist	3	a } <u>Bath</u>	b	c
Optician		a }	b	c
Disp. Chemist		a }	b	c
Nurse		a } <u>visits regularly from Nurse Clark</u> <u>or Nurse Ellison - District Nurses.</u>	b	c
Hospital	1	a } <u>Bath</u>	b	c
Bank		a }	b	c
Post Office	1	a	b	c
Solicitor		a	b	c
Vet. Surgeon	1	a } <u>Bath</u>	b	c
Ch. Accountant		a }	b	c
Auctioneer *	1 one living in village	a } <u>shops in Bath.</u>	b	c
Estate Agent		a }	b	c

\* If different from Auctioneer

Accessibility of the Towns and Parishes Named as Commonly Visited

	a <u>Bath</u>	b	c
Buses each week day	<u>two each way on Wednesday</u> <u>three " " " Saturday</u> <u>Buses run from signpost at top of road.</u> <u>1/4 mile.</u>		
Buses each Saturday			
Buses each Market day			
Buses each Sunday			
Trains each week day	<u>10 am to Wellin.</u> <u>10.16 am to Bath.</u>		
Trains each Sunday			
Time of First Bus from village			
Time of First Train from village			
Time of Last bus from town	Week-day. <u>2.40.</u> Saturday. <u>9 pm.</u>	Week-day.... Saturday....	Week-day.... Saturday....
Time of Last Train from town	Week-day.... Saturday....	Week-day.... Saturday....	Week-day.... Saturday....

# Social Organisations

## Youth

Boy Scouts.....  
Boys' Brigade.....  
St. J. Amb. Cadets.....  
Army Cadets.....  
Air Training Corps....  
Boys' Youth Club.....  
Other Boys' Orgs.....

Girl Guides.....  
Girls' Train. Corps.....  
Girls' Youth Club.....  
Other Girls' Orgs.....

Mixed Youth Club.....

Brit. Legion.....  
Rotary Club.....  
Mens' Club.....  
Rifles Club.....  
Skittles Club.....  
Billiards Club.....  
Gardening Club.....  
Poultry Club.....  
Other Mens' Orgs.....  
Women's Inst.....  
W.V.S.....  
Womens' Club.....  
Co-op Guild.....  
Other Womens' Orgs.....  
Women's Club.....

## Adult

Cricket Club.....  
Football Club.....  
Tennis Club.....  
Hockey Club.....  
Bowls Club.....  
Others.....

## Miscellaneous Social

Brass Band.....  
Orchestra.....  
At least once a month:-  
Choir (not Church).....  
Whist Drives.....  
Ballroom Dances.....  
Trad. Dances.....

## Cinema Performances

Regular in villages... Frequency... days a week or ... a month  
Other places visited for Cinema a) Bath... b)..... c).....  
Number of Halls in Parish Parish Hall.

## Religious Organisations

	Church of England	Free Church
Sunday Service(s)	<u>✓</u>	—
Mid-wk. Service(s)	—	—
Choir Practice	—	—
Sunday School	<u>✓</u>	—
Mothers Union	—	—
Girls' Friendly S.	—	—
Other Meetings	— (Billiards)	—

## Educational Organisations

Junior School ✓ Secondary Modern School .....  
Secondary Grammar School ..... All Standard School .....  
Children attend Secondary Modern School at Combe Down...  
Children attend Secondary Grammar School at Bath..... & Midsonner Norton  
W.E.A. Classes .... County Evening Inst. Classes ....  
Music Appreciation Classes .... Drama Club one Produces Pantomime at Christmas & Concert at Easter.  
County Library Branch ✓ at school run by Mrs Palmer (Headmistress) Private Circulating Library ....  
Other Educational Classes.....  
Woman's Club meets weekly.

University of Bristol  
Department of Geography

SELECTION OF THE SURVEY PARISHES: PROBLEM PARISHES 1947/50,  
BOUNDARY CHANGES SINCE 1947 AND THE NEED TO DISCARD CERTAIN  
PLACES FROM A COMPARISON BETWEEN 1947/50 AND 1980 SURVEYS

Liz Mills  
November 1981

ADDENDUM: NOTE ON DATA MANIPULATIONS  
December 1982

Changes in the rural spatial economy of an English county  
(Somerset 1947-80)

Working Note 5

SSRC Project HR 6331/2

Table of Contents

	<u>Page</u>
1. Introduction	1
2. Selection of parishes for omission from the analysis of the 1947 and 1950 surveys	2
3. Boundary changes during 1951	6
4. Other changes which do not seem to require action	6
5. Problem parishes 1947/50: summary	7
6. Boundary changes 1951 - 1974	10
7. Summary: parishes discarded from the comparison between 1947/50 and 1980 surveys	13
Appendix 1:	
Boundary changes in Somerset 1947 - 1980	16
Appendix 2:	
Details of boundary changes 1951 - 1980..	
Parish List	19
ADDENDUM: Note on data manipulations    December 1982	22

1. Introduction

This Working Note is broadly concerned with the selection of certain parishes for inclusion in the study and with the omission of others for various reasons. The Note has two main sections. The first describes the need to omit a small number of places from the analysis of the 1947 and 1950 survey information (amalgamated to a 1950 base line), while the second, overwhelmingly concerned with the problems posed by boundary changes since 1947, suggests the amalgamation of some parishes with others and the discard of others prior to the analysis of changes between the two survey years.

2. Selection of Parishes for Omission from the Analysis  
of the 1947 and 1950 Surveys

All rural parishes in existence in 1980 have been given code numbers and included as cases in the 1947/50 surveys. However, a number of these will have to be discarded as they fall into one of the following groups :

2.1 Parishes not surveyed by Bracey

Several rural parishes were not surveyed by Bracey and these are listed below. They include the parishes which surround towns, such as St Cuthbert Out around Wells and Selwood around Frome, and also those parishes which have been created since 1950 from parts of others - Peasedown St John and Shoscombe in the district of Wansdyke.

1044 St Cuthbert Out  
1045 Selwood  
2009 Bridgwater Without  
2012 Burnham Without  
3044 Wellington Without  
4022 Minehead Without  
5021 Chard Rural  
5057 Ilminster Without  
5119 Yeovil Without  
6035 Peasedown St John  
6039 Shoscombe

It should be noted that the very small parishes of Sock Dennis and Babington were omitted from the Bracey surveys and have since ceased to exist. There were also two parishes which Bracey surveyed and which were, on inspection, considered to be suburbs of cities. Bishopsworth, on the edge of Bristol, and Weston, near Bath, fell into this category. They have already been omitted from the 1980 survey. The parish of Ansford, close to Castle Cary, was also surveyed and then discarded by Bracey. However, we might consider that Ansford is more appropriately considered as part of the second group of parishes.



2.2 Parishes suggested for amalgamation with others on the grounds that they formed one community in 1947/50

Bracey treated Huish Episcopi and Langport as one parish as he considered that they formed parts of the same community, with most of the services in Langport and the residential areas in Huish Episcopi. Slightly different is the case of Ansford which Bracey discarded but which it might be appropriate to amalgamate with Castle Cary. The relationship between Castle Cary and Ansford cannot be said to be comparable with that between, say, Yeovil and Yeovil Without, firstly because Castle Cary is a rural parish with a relatively small population, and secondly because although Ansford adjoins Castle Cary it does not surround it in the manner of some 'Without' areas. The respondent for Ansford in 1947 commented that 'Ansford parish is adjacent to that of Castle Cary, and the small town of Castle Cary suffices, in general, for the shopping and social needs of Ansford. No part of Ansford is more than a mile and a half from Castle Cary'. However, the 1980 returns for Castle Cary and Ansford convey the impression that a distinction may usefully be drawn between the two and it would seem that it is preferable not to amalgamate them. Thus the only amalgamation to be recommended under this heading is that of Huish Episcopi and Langport.

2.3 Parishes which experienced boundary changes between Bracey's two surveys

The following changes occurred between 1947 and 1950:

- 1948 Publow and Stanton Drew re-aligned
- 1949 Huntspill split to form East and West Huntspill  
Stowey changed its name to Stowey Sutton and gained land from Chew Magna,
- 1949 Coleford was formed from parts of Kilmersdon and the parish of Babington which ceased to exist.  
Cleeve was formed from part of Yatton.  
Bishopsworth was largely transferred to Bristol, but there were small changes involving Dundry and Long Ashton.

These changes cause something of a problem because it is impossible to discover the percentage of parish population affected by each boundary change. The 1951 Census County Report for Somerset notes that, owing to the loss of the 1931 records by fire in 1941, 'adjustments for comparative areas as constituted at the 1931 Census could not be carried out for certain areas affected by boundary changes after 1941'. The wards and parishes often experienced very large changes and it was considered preferable to omit them. (Census 1951. County Report: Somerset, vii para. 2).

However, some indication of the scale of population changes involved can be gained from a comparison of changes between 1931 and 1939 with those between 1939 and 1951. (To be a more effective guide this exercise should be carried out for all rural parishes and for a longer time period, but it was considered to be too time consuming a task). Information for 1939 is available in the National Registration of England and Wales which contains statistics for civil parishes. Changes in the parishes in question are shown in the following table:

Table 1

Population changes in selected rural parishes of Somerset 1931 - 1951

Parish	Pop 1931	Pop 1939	Change No	31-39 %	Pop 1951	Change No	39-51 %
Bishopsworth	1143	2233	+1090	+95.4	-	-	-
6008 Chew Magna	1596	1734	+138	+ 8.6	1016	-718	- 41.4
7012 Cleeve	-	-	-	-	454	+454	+100.0
1011 Coleford	-	-	-	-	1505	+1505	+100.0
7015 Dundry	851	958	+107	+12.6	743	- 215	- 22.4
Huntspill	1444	1701	+257	+18.0	E 867 W 839		
1027 Kilmersdon	1804	1680	-124	- 6.9	520	-1160	- 69.0
7023 Long Ashton	2606	3568	+962	+36.9	3079	- 489	- 13.7
6037 Publow	523	556	+ 33	+ 6.3	868	+312	+ 56.1
6041 Stanton Drew	828	880	+ 52	+ 6.3	555	- 325	- 13.6
6042 Stowey Sutton	127	145	+ 18	+14.2	737	+ 592	+408.3
7039 Yatton	2280	2946	+666	+29.0	2689	- 257	- 8.7

This table shows, first of all, the creation of two new parishes between 1947 and 1951 - Cleeve and Coleford. In addition, it shows that all the other parishes except for Kilmersdon gained population between 1931 and 1939. The gains were, in general, quite modest, below 10 per cent in Publow, Stanton Drew and Chew Magna, 12.6 per cent in Dundry, 14.2 per cent in Stowey and 18 per cent in Huntspill.

However, Yatton and Long Ashton both experienced very large gains, 29 and 36.9 per cent respectively. Bishopsworth grew by 95.4 per cent, a reflection of the outward growth of Bristol. Kilmersdon, on the other hand, lost about 6.9 per cent of its 1931 population in this earlier time period.

Between 1939 and 1951 the pattern is quite different. Publow again showed population growth but at a much higher rate, 56.1 per cent compared with 6.3 between 1931 and 1939. Stowey's gain was particularly spectacular. The parish almost quadrupled its population. On the other hand, parishes which had grown considerably in the earlier time period now suffered large losses. These include Chew Magna, Dundry, Long Ashton, Stanton Drew and Yatton. Kilmersdon experienced the largest decrease - 69 per cent. Bishopsworth parish ceased to exist during this period.

With the exception of parishes which came into being or disappeared, it is, of course, impossible to tell how far each of these changes is due to migration or swings in the birth rate and how much to boundary changes, but there were large reversals in Stanton Drew, Chew Magna, Yatton, Long Ashton and Dundry, and there were unusually large losses or gains in Publow, Stowey and Kilmersdon. These might therefore be considered as candidates for amalgamation with one another. In some cases, Bracey's own procedures (for example, he discarded Stowey) or respondents' comments give some additional guidance.

It is proposed that the following amalgamations could usefully be performed to overcome some of the problems of boundary changes between 1947 and 1950:

6037 Publow with 6041 Stanton Drew  
6008 Chew Magna with 6042 Stowey (now Stowey Sutton)  
1011 Coleford with 1027 Kilmersdon  
7012 Cleeve with 7039 Yatton

3. Boundary changes during 1951

Of the changes which occurred during 1951, the most significant would seem to be the creation of Trudoxhill parish from parts of Nunney. The population of the new parish in 1951 was 351, while that of Nunney was 559. Although Bracey's survey took place before the boundary change he did obtain a return for the new parish in his second survey, and the 1947 questionnaire seems to refer to Nunney village only. It is not at all clear exactly what area the 1947 survey covered as it was filled in by the Vicar who commented 'I am uncertain what the word 'Parish' conotes ... here the Civil Parish is different from the Ecclesiastical' and did not specify which he used in making his replies. It would be possible to separate the two parishes but there are also grounds for considering their amalgamation.

4. Other changes which do not seem to require action

The division of Huntspill parish in 1949 appeared to be very much a reflection of an existing separation of the parish into the two parts which became East and West Huntspill, and in the Bracey returns for 1947 it is a fairly simple task to separate the two. It is therefore preferable to treat them separately.

In the case of Bishopsworth, mentioned in (3) above, the changes involving Long Ashton and Dundry seem likely to have been small as only 8 acres were transferred to Long Ashton

and 1 to Dundry. In fact both Long Ashton and Dundry lost rather than gained population between 1939 and 1951. Without further information it is impossible to assess the importance of the changes and it is suggested that they be ignored and the two parishes treated separately.

5. Problem parishes 1947/50: Summary

In summary the following parishes should be omitted from the analysis of Bracey's surveys:

1044 St Cuthbert Out  
1045 Selwood  
2009 Bridgwater Without  
2012 Burnham Without  
3044 Wellington Without  
4022 Minehead Without  
5021 Chard Rural  
5057 Ilminster Without  
5119 Yeovil Without  
6035 Peasedown St John  
6039 Shoscombe

And the following amalgamations might usefully be performed:

Huish Episcopi with Langport  
Publow with Stanton Drew  
Chew Magna with Stowey Sutton  
Coleford with Kilmersdon  
Cleeve with Yatton  
Nunney with Trudoxhill

It is proposed that where parishes are joined together the enlarged parish should not be given a new case number but should retain the code number of the 'dominant' parish, that is the parish from which a new one was created (e.g. Yatton, in the case of Cleeve and Yatton) or the largest service centre in other cases (e.g. Langport in the case of Langport and Huish Episcopi). For the 1947/50 surveys the revised case numbers are therefore:

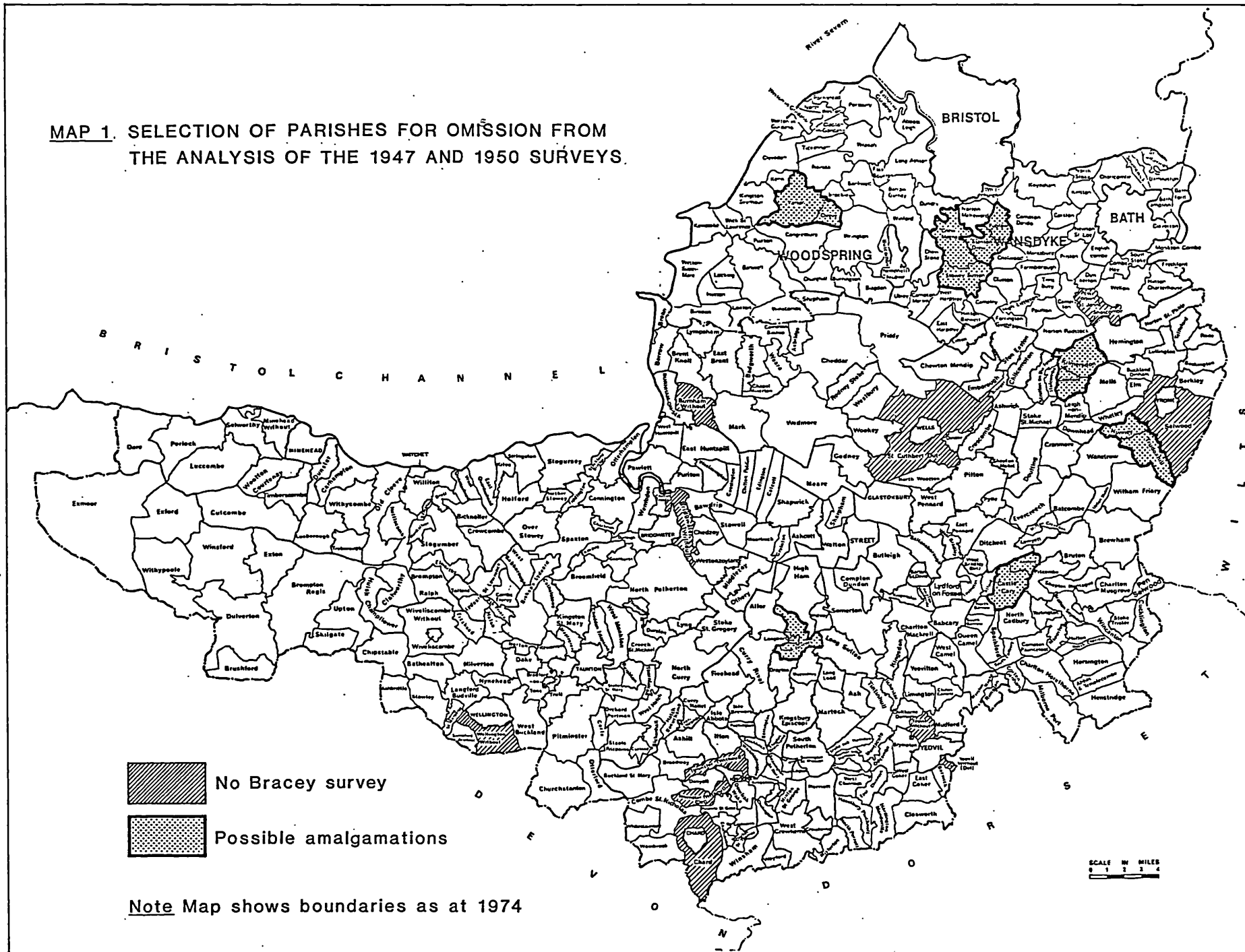
5018 Castle Cary (with Ansford)  
5067 Langport (with Huish Episcopi)  
6008 Chew Magna (with Stowey Sutton)  
1027 Kilmersdon (with Coleford)  
7039 Yatton (with Cleeve)  
6037 Publow (with Stanton Drew)  
1038 Nunney (with Trudoxhill)

And the following cases should be deleted:

1011	5021
1044	5057
1045	5119
1053	6035
2009	6039
2012	6041
3044	6042
4022	7012
5054	

The changes are shown on Map 1.

**MAP 1. SELECTION OF PARISHES FOR OMISSION FROM  
THE ANALYSIS OF THE 1947 AND 1950 SURVEYS.**



Note Map shows boundaries as at 1974

## 6. Boundary Changes 1951 - 1974

Before deciding which parishes pose difficulties for the comparison of 1950 and 1980 survey data, because of boundary changes in the intervening years, it is necessary to adopt some basis for estimating the effect of these changes. Parishes which have experienced boundary changes are therefore divided into three groups as follows:

- 6.1 Parishes which have experienced boundary changes which
- (a) involve less than 10 per cent of the population of that parish and
  - (b) are not part of a wider series of changes in which an adjacent parish (or adjacent parishes) experienced a 10 per cent change or greater relative to the parish in question.

Parish	Population change	Per cent change
1006 Binegar	- 8	- .3
1050 Ston Easton	-46	- 9
2024 East Brent	+ 6	+0.7
2037 North Petherton	-143	-4.2
3010 Churchstanton	-11	- 2
3037 Stoke St Mary	- 6	-1.1
3046 West Buckland	+ 3	+0.4
3048 West Monkton	- 2	-0.1
5021 Chard Rural	+57	+2.8
5044 East Chinnock	- 7	-1.9
5055 Ilchester	+11	+1.5
5075 Martock	-10	-0.4
5079 Montacute	- 8	-0.9
5086 Norton sub Hamdon	+21	+ 4
5087 Odcombe	- 6	- 1
5088 Pen Selwood	+ 7	+3.2
5104 Stoke sub Hamdon	+10	+0.6
5106 Tintinhull	+12	+2.3
5112 West Crewkerne	+27	+5.9
6011 Clutton	-70	-5.3
6034 Paulton	+ 2	+0.1
7024 Loxton	- 6	-3.5



Note The parish of Congresbury (7014) also falls in this category, but is omitted from the table because it contributed to a 10 per cent gain in a non-adjacent parish. See 3.

It is suggested that these small changes be ignored when the survey data are analysed.

- 6.2 Parishes which have experienced boundary changes which
- (a) involve 10 per cent or more of the parish population and
  - (b) represented a change relative to a Municipal Borough or to an area outside the historical county of Somerset.

Parish	Population change	Per cent change
2009 Bridgwater Without	- 347	- 49
2023 Durleigh	- 26	- 19.1
5033 Corton Denham	- 45	- 21.7
5107 Wambrook	+ 25	+ 17.6
5108 Wayford	- 101	- 43.3
6002 Batheaston	- 443	- 13.4
6006 Charlcombe (1)	+ 141	+ 44.3
(2)	- 129	- 26.5
6025 Kelston	+ 34	+ 22.5
6031 North Stoke	- 23	- 20.4
6043 Swainswick	- 702	- 70.2

It is suggested that these are included in the separate survey analyses but excluded from the comparisons between 1950 and 1980.

6.3 Parishes which are part of a wider series of boundary changes in which

- (a) an adjacent parish (or parishes) experienced a population change of 10 per cent or more as the result of transfers to or from the parish in question, or
- (b) they themselves experienced a change of 10 per cent or more as a result of this type of boundary alteration.

Parish	Population change	Per cent change
1010 Chilcompton	+ 705	+ 95.2
1040 Priddy	+ 264	+ 97.8
1048 Stratton on Fosse	- 651	- 41.8
5026 Chilthorne Domer	+ 212	+ 90.2
5119 Yeovil Without	- 212	- 13.1
6005 Camerton	-1365	- 65.8
6013 Compton Martin	- 30	- 6.4 (Priddy + 11.0%)
6016 Dunkerton	- 119	- 20.0
6017 East Harptree	- 45	- 7.1 (Priddy + 16.6%)
6019 Farmborough	- 155	- 15.5
6022 High Littleton	+ 223	+ 20.2
6035 Peasedown St John	+2530	+100.0
6039 Shoscombe	+ 470	+100.0
6045 Ubley	- 55	- 16.9
6046 Wellow	-1516	- 77.5
6047 West Harptree	- 44	- 10.3
7005 Blagdon	- 80	- 6.5 (Priddy + 26.9%)
7011 Clapton in Gordano	+ 33	+ 12.6
7014 Congresbury	- 65	- 4.0 (Puxton + 10.0%)
7027 Portbury	- 33	- 8.1 (Clapton + 12.6%)
7029 Puxton	+ 21	+ 10.0
7039 Yatton	+ 44	+ 1.4 (Puxton/Congres)

It is suggested that each of these parishes should be separately included in the analysis of the 1950 and then the 1980 survey but that when the results are compared the parishes could be amalgamated into groups as follows:

Chilthorne Domer with Yeovil Without  
Chilcompton with Stratton on the Fosse  
Priddy with Blagdon, Ubley, Compton Martin, East and West Harptree  
Farmborough with High Littleton  
Wellow with Dunkerton, Camerton, Peasedown St John and Shoscombe  
Clapton in Gordano with Portbury  
Congresbury with Puxton and Yatton

However, the last named amalgamation is thought to be unnecessary. Others are not feasible in that they result in totally inappropriate groupings and each case is to be decided after close inspection of the survey returns and maps of the parishes.

The boundary changes and possible amalgamations are summarised in Map 2.

7. Summary: Parishes discarded from the comparison between 1947/50 and 1980 surveys

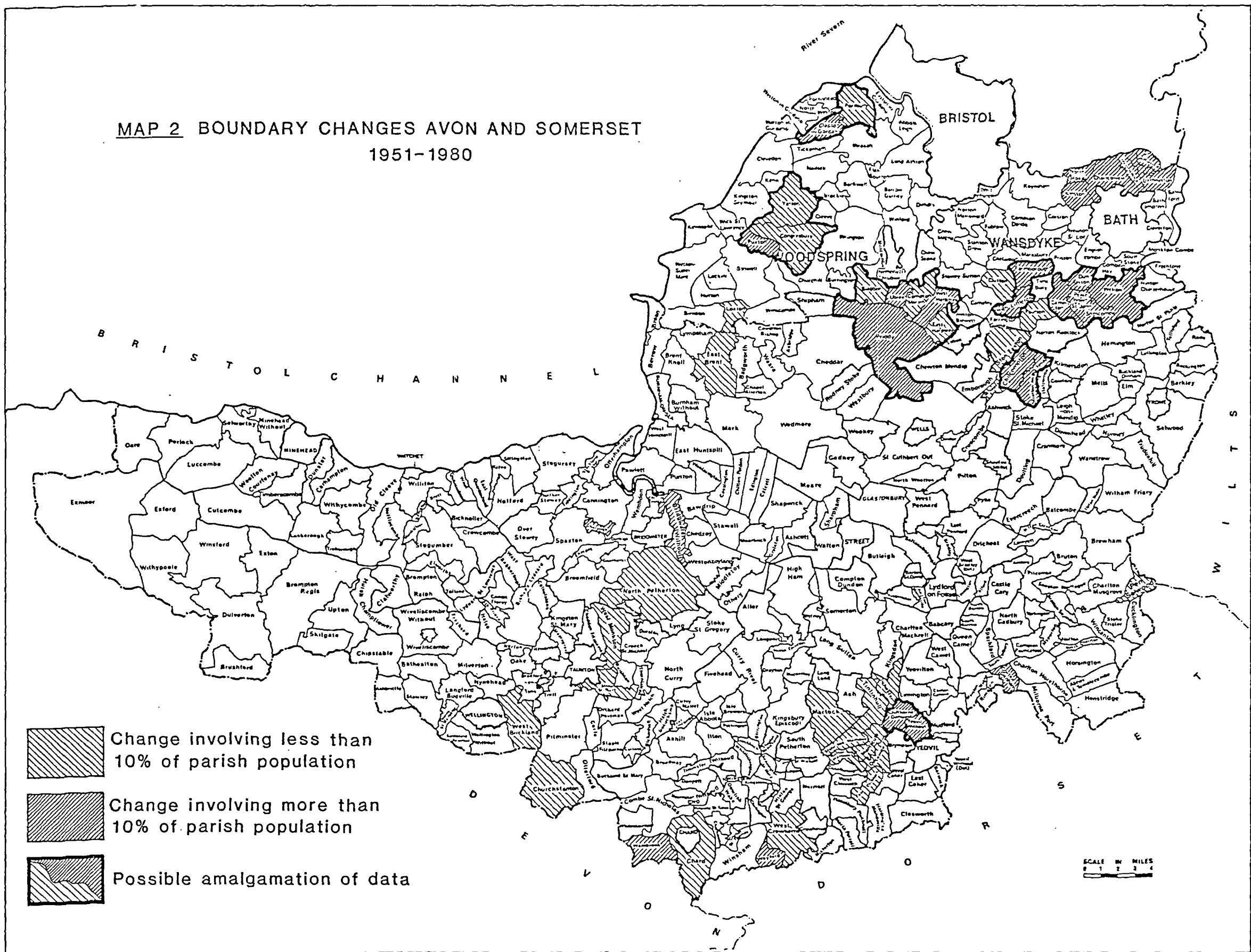
On the basis of the information about boundary changes it has been necessary to make operational decisions about which parishes to include in the separate analyses of the 1947/50 and 1980 surveys but to discard or amalgamate with others before the comparison between the 1947/50 and 1980 surveys is carried out.

It has been decided not to discard any parishes which have experienced a boundary change involving less than 10 per cent of the parish population. In those which have had changes involving losses or gains of 10 per cent or more it has been decided to take some account of the absolute numbers of people transferred. Thus only those parishes which have experienced a loss or gain of 50 people or more, amounting to a change greater than or equal to 10 per cent, are not to be included in the comparison between the two surveys.

The following parishes with changes relative to Municipal Boroughs or to places outside the county are therefore excluded at this stage:

2009 Bridgwater Without  
5108 Wayford  
6002 Batheaston  
6006 Charlcombe  
6043 Swainswick

**MAP 2 BOUNDARY CHANGES AVON AND SOMERSET  
1951-1980**



In the case of those parishes which are part of a more complex series of boundary changes, the adoption of the additional criterion of a change involving 50 people or more leaves the following sets of parishes to be grouped together :

1010 Chilcompton with 1048 Stratton on the Fosse  
5026 Chilthorne Domer with 5119 Yeovil Without  
6019 Farmborough with 6022 High Littleton  
6005 Camerton with 6016 Dunkerton, 6035 Peasedown St John, 6039  
Shoscombe and 6046 Wellow

As far as the changes to Priddy parish are concerned it is considered that the amalgamation of the five parishes would result in an unacceptably large loss of survey detail for very little gain in terms of accuracy. The population losses for the parishes in Avon (Blagdon, Compton Martin, Ubley and East and West Harptree) are relatively small (between 6.4 and 16.9 per cent, the largest absolute loss being 80 people from Blagdon) in an area which consists mainly of scattered farms. Although Priddy has made a large gain in population, this gain is made up of a series of quite small additions from the other parishes. Furthermore, the village of Priddy itself lies in that part of the parish most distant from these other parishes and it is unrealistic to think of them all as forming some kind of common service area.

APPENDIX 1 Boundary changes in Somerset 1947 - 1980

Note No details on population changes are available for boundary changes which took place between 1947 and 1951.

1. 1948 Publow and Stanton Drew re-aligned
2. 1949 Huntspill split to form East and West Huntspill
3. 1949 Stowey parish ceased to exist. Part to Chew Magna and the rest to Stowey Sutton. Chew Magna also lost some territory to Stowey Sutton.
4. 1949 Cleeve formed from parts of Yatton.
5. 1949 Coleford formed from parts of Kilmersdon and the old parish of Babington which ceased to exist. Kilmersdon decreased in size.
6. 1949 Bishopsworth parish ceased to exist. Part to Dundry and part to Long Ashton.
7. 1951 Bath extension took in parts of Charlcombe, Claverton, Monkton Combe, Englishcombe, South Stoke and Weston.
8. 1951 Bristol extension took in parts of Whitchurch.
9. 1951 Trudoxhill formed from part of Nunney.
10. 1951 Bristol CP split between Easton in Gordano, North Weston, Walton in Gordano and Weston in Gordano.
11. 1952 Bridgwater MB extended to take in parts of Bridgwater Without, Durleigh and North Petherton, transferring a total of 516 people to Bridgwater MB.
12. 1953 Weston parish ceased to exist. Part to Charlcombe and part to Kelston. (Bracey surveyed Weston but discarded it as being part of Bath. In fact most of the parish had already been transferred to Bath in 1951. The 1931 population of Weston was 1583.)
13. 1954 Clapton in Gordano created from the old parish of Clapton and part of Portbury. Transfer of 33 people from Portbury to Clapton in Gordano.
14. 1955 Peasedown St John and Shoscombe created from parts of Camerton, Dunkerton and Wellow.
15. 1956 Clutton area changes. Clutton was reduced in size, losing acreage but no people to Cameley and both acreage and 70 people to High Littleton. At the same time High Littleton lost 39 people to Farmborough and 2 to Paulton.
16. 1957 Martock decreased in size, part (but no people) going to Ash and part (plus 10 people) to Stoke sub Hamdon.
17. 1957 Yeovil Without lost 212 people to Chilthorne Domer, which nearly doubled its population.

18. 1957 Montacute and area changes. Seven people moved from East Chinnock to Odcombe, and Odcombe in turn lost 13 to Montacute. Montacute lost 21 people to Norton sub Hamdon, which lost land but no people to South Petherton.
19. 1957 Sock Dennis ceased to exist. This very small parish was not surveyd by Bracey. Eleven people were transferred to Ilchester and 12 to Tintinhull.
20. 1958 Taunton MB enlarged. Only 2 people were affected, though 147 acres were taken from parts of Cheddon Fitzpaine, Staplegrove, Trull and West Monkton.
21. 1958 Chilcompton enlarged to take in 8 people from Binegar, 46 from Ston Easton and 651 from Stratton on the Fosse. Chilcompton gained 705 people, almost doubling its population relative to the 1951 figure.
22. 1959 Yeovil MB enlarged. Thirty seven acres transferred from Yeovil Without, but no population change.
23. 1962 Congresbury area changes. Congresbury lost 71 people to Yatton but gained 6 from another part of Yatton. Puxton gained 21 people from Yatton.
24. 1966 Taunton MB extended, taking in parts of Stoke St Mary and West Monkton but only 7 people.
25. 1966 Bath extended, taking in parts of Batheaston, Charlcombe, Monkton Combe, Newton St Loe and Swainswick.
26. 1966 Bristol extended, taking in parts of Long Ashton but no change in population.
27. 1966 County Boundary changes under the South Western Counties Order 1965. In the southern parts of Yeovil district there were changes in the boundaries with Devon and Dorset. Misterton and West Crewkerne made small gains from Dorset (Misterton gained only acreage, West Crewkerne 27 people), Wayford and Winsham lost to Dorset. Henstridge and Wincanton lost land but no people to Dorset. Wambrook gained from Devon. Chard Rural parish was redefined, losing part to Dorset but gaining elsewhere from Devon and Dorset. Pen Selwood gained from Wiltshire. In West Somerset there were gains and losses relative to Devon. Brushford and West Buckland gained from Devon, as did Dulverton. Thorne St Margaret and Wellington Without in Taunton Deane gained land from Devon. In Mendip district, Norton St Philip lost some land to Wiltshire. Part of North Stoke in Wansdyke district was transferred to Warmley..
28. 1967 Yeovil MB extended to take in land from Yeovil Without.

29. 1974 County boundary changes when new county of Avon created. Priddy enlarged, taking in parts of Blagdon, Ubley, Compton Martin, East and West Harptree and Burrington, although no people were transferred from Burrington. East Brent was also enlarged, gaining from Loxton.

Several boundary changes are currently (November 1981) taking place. The new parish of Burtle is being created from parts of Chilton Polden, Edington and Catcott in Sedgemoor district, and the parish of Charlinch has become part of Spaxton. These are among several changes in Sedgemoor designed to accomodate recent housing development.



APPENDIX 2 Details of boundary changes 1951 - 1980 Parish list

Parish	1951 pop	1951 pop 1961 bdry	% pop chge	Area chge (ac)	1961 pop	1961 pop 1971 bdry	% pop chge	Area chge (hc)	1971 pop	1971 pop 1974 bdry	% pop chge	Area chge (hc)
1006 Binegar	272	264	- 3	- 28	288				279			
1010 Chilcompton	740	1445	+95.2	+661	1436				1571			
1040 Priddy	248	250							270	534	+ 97.8	+3248
1048 Stratton on F.	1558	907	-41.8	-556	1025				939			
1050 Ston Easton	511	465	- 9.0	- 77	489				548			
2009 Bridgwater Wt.	708	361	-49.0	*	458				694			
2023 Durlleigh	136	110	-19.0	*	125				300			
2024 East Brent	759				904				897	903	+ 0.7	+ 201
2037 North Petherton	3426	3282	- 4.2	*	3769				4521			
3010 Church Stanton	496				538	527	- 2.0	*	513			
3037 Stoke St Mary	548				542	535	- 1.1	*	540			
3046 West Buckland	811				793	796	+ 0.4	+ 4	904			
3048 West Monkton	1417	1415	-0.14	*	1697				1988			
5021 Chard Rural	1965				2016	2073	+ 2.8	+72	2188			
5026 Chilthorne Domer	235	447	+90.2	+ 87	484				485			
5033 Corton Denham	222				207	162	-21.7	*	151			
5044 East Chinnock	362	355	- 1.9	- 10	357				410			
5055 Ilchester	731	742	+ 1.5	+287	1401				1685			
5075 Martock	2251	2241	- 0.4	- 12	2230				3730			
5079 Montacute	867	859	- 0.9	-212	806				710			
5086 Norton s.Hamdon	521	542	+ 4.0	+213	568				580			
5087 Odcombe	623	617	- 1.0	+ 6	574				735			
5088 Pen Selwood	254				216	223	+ 3.2	*	218			

Parish	1951 pop	1951 pop bdry	% pop chge	Area chge (ac)	1961 pop	1961 pop bdry	% pop chge	Area chge (hc)	1971 pop	1971 pop bdry	% pop chge	Area chge (hc)
5104 Stoke sub Hamdon	1784	1794	+ 0.6	+ 1	1782				1795			
5106 Tintinhull	527	539	+ 2.3	+287	694				950			
5107 Wambrook	177				142	167	+17.6	+232	152			
5108 Wayford	296				233	132	-43.3	*	127			
5112 West Crewkerne	457				455	482	+ 5.9	+ 55	463			
5119 Yeovil Without	1618	1406	-13.1	- 87	3155				6410			
6002 Batheaston	2694				3307	2864	-13.4	*	2988			
6005 Camerton	2073	708	-65.8	-334	620				638			
6006 Charlcombe	318	459	+44.0	+1375	486	357	-26.5	*	347			
6011 Clutton	1310	1240	- 5.0	- 42	1382				1437			
6013 Compton Martin	485				425				469	439	- 6.4	-340
6016 Dunkerton	609	490	-20.0	-140	555				505			
6017 East Harptree	582				550				637	592	-7.1	-448
6019 Farmborough	998	843	-15.5	+159	800				1053			
6022 High Littleton	1104	1327	+20.2	+222	1413				1508			
6025 Kelston	151	185	+22.5	+205	188				177			
6028 Monkton Combe	2118				2330	407	-83.0	*	641			
6031 North Stoke	119				113	90	-20.4	-478	86			
6034 Paulton	3157	3159	+ 2.0	+ 35	2790				3669			
6035 Peasedown St John	-	2530	+100.0	+1186	3238				3388			
6039 Shoscombe	-	470	+100.0	+ 806	442				413			
6043 Swainswick	1082				1000	298	-70.2	*	273			
6045 Ubley	315				294				325	270	-16.9	-358

Parish	1951 pop	1951 pop bdry	% pop chge	Area chge (ac)	1961 pop	1961 pop bdry	% pop chge	Area chge (hc)	1971 pop	1971 pop bdry	% pop chge	Area chge (hc)
6046 Wellow	2009	493	-75.5	-1519	408				406			
6047 West Harptree	443				440				1426	382	-10.3	-716
7005 Blagdon	1053				1025				1238	1158	- 6.5	-1057
7011 Clapton in Gord.	261	294	+12.6	+ 20	257				300			
7014 Congresbury	1446				1637	1572	-4.0	+ 81	3397			
7024 Loxton	186				187				172	166	-3.5	-201
7027 Portbury	407	374	- 8.1	- 20	375				843			
7029 Puxton	191				206	227	+10.0	+ 82	220			
7039 Yatton	2689				3063	3107	+ 1.4	-163	5960			

SOURCES: Census 1951 County Report Somerset Table 3 and 4

"

"

1971 Report for the County of Somerset as constituted on 1st April 1974

NOTE : This table includes only boundary changes which involved transfers of population.

\* No information

ADDENDUM Note on data manipulations December 1982

It was decided at an early stage of the project to write up both Bracey's survey findings and the results of the 1980 survey in as full a form as possible; that is, without the deletion of a parish from one of the surveys simply because it was omitted from the other, and without regard to the boundary changes which have occurred in the study area in the 30 years between the surveys. This decision was based firstly on the need to report Bracey's results in full since this has not previously been carried out, and secondly on the desire to report the 1980 findings for the whole county of Somerset and for the three major rural districts of Avon for which data are available since this information is of general value; not least to policy makers locally. Of particular interest is the ability to draw comparisons between the two counties for 1980.

Information from Bracey's surveys, drawn together to a 1950 base line, is available for 378 rural parishes, while the 1980 survey has been conducted in 395 parishes over the same study area. (The addition of the data for Northavon increases the total number of parishes surveyed in 1980 to 432, but the Northavon parishes are excluded from the present discussion.)

In order to provide a set of data in which strictly comparable cases may be examined at the two survey dates it is necessary to reduce the number of parishes examined as follows:

1. For the 1980 data set(395 cases):

- (i) Delete all the parishes not surveyed by Bracey, nine in all:

- 1044 St Cuthbert Out
- 1045 Selwood
- 2009 Bridgwater Without
- 2012 Burnham Without
- 3044 Wellington Without
- 4022 Minehead Without
- 5021 Chard Rural
- 5057 Ilminster Without
- 5119 Yeovil Without

- (ii) Amalgamate data for the following parishes, already amalgamated in the 1950 data set:

- 1011 Coleford with 1027 Kilmerson. Delete 1011.

1038 Nunney with 1053 Trudoxhill. Delete 1053.  
5054 Huish Episcopi with 5067 Langport. Delete 5054.  
6008 Chew Magna with 6042 Stowey Sutton. Delete 6042.  
6037 Publow with 6041 Stanton Drew. Delete 6041.  
7012 Cleeve with 7039 Yatton. Delete 7012.

This reduces the number of cases by a further six.

- (iii) To take account of the boundary changes between 1950 and 1980, delete the following four parishes:

5108 Wayford  
6002 Batheaston  
6006 Charlcombe  
6043 Swainswick

- (iv) And amalgamate the following:

1010 Chilcompton with 1048 Stratton on the Fosse . Delete 1048.  
6019 Farmborough with 6022 High Littleton. Delete 6019.  
6005 Camerton with 6016 Dunkerton and 6035 Peasedown St John.  
Delete 6016 and 6035.  
6039 Shoscombe with 6046 Wellow. Delete 6039.

(Note It would also be advisable to amalgamate 5026 Chilthorne Domer with 5119 Yeovil Without, had not Yeovil Without already been deleted since it was not surveyed by Bracey.)

These amalgamations reduce the number of cases by a further 5.  
The total number of cases remaining for 1980 is therefore 371.

2. For the 1950 data set (378 cases):

- (i) To take account of the boundary changes between 1950 and 1980 delete the four parishes named in (iii) above.  
(ii) And amalgamate parishes as in (iv) above, but note that cases 6035 Peasedown St John and 6039 Shoscombe are already absent from the 1950 data since Bracey did not survey them so that Camerton and Dunkerton are amalgamated under case number 6005 while case number 6016 is deleted and case 6046 continues to refer to Wellow only.

These two modifications reduce the number of cases in the 1950 data set by seven, bringing the total in the set to 371.

(Note Wiveliscombe and Wiveliscombe Without and Seavington St Mary and St Michael have already been amalgamated in both data sets.)

As an intermediate step it is possible to reduce the number of parishes in the 1980 survey from 395 to 378. The 9 places not surveyed by Bracey can be deleted and the six amalgamations already performed on the 1950 data set (described in 1 (ii) above) can be carried out without undue difficulty. However, simply to delete cases 1011, 1053, 5054, 6042, 6041 and 7012 from the 1980 set because the 1950 set does not contain them, rather than amalgamating the information contained under these case numbers with that for the other parishes involved, means a loss of information for 6 parishes and leaves 6 other cases incomplete as compared with their 1950 counterparts. For example, in 1950 the information for Kilmersdon and Coleford is combined under one case heading, 'Kilmersdon(with Coleford)', given case number 1027, and although case number 1011 was deleted the data collected under it were not lost. If case number 1011 is deleted from the 1980 data, information for Coleford which should have been added to that for Kilmersdon is lost and case 1027 for 1980 is no longer comparable with that for 1950 since it refers to a smaller area, Kilmersdon, rather than Kilmersdon(with Coleford).

The parishes of Peasedown St John and Shoscombe, the remaining two which might be deleted from the 1980 data to bring the number of cases down to 378, also pose problems. These parishes were not given code numbers for 1950 since they did not exist as separate parishes then, but information for the villages they contain is nevertheless included in Bracey's study since they were part of other parishes. To delete case 6035 from the 1980 set is to remove the village of Peasedown from this latest set, whereas it is included in the 1950 data under case numbers 6005 and 6016.

Thus this intermediate step, intended to make the two data sets more comparable without a large reduction in the number of cases, may in fact pose greater problems of interpretation, especially where boundary changes have occurred, than the more detailed changes which reduce the number of cases in both 1950 and 1980 to 371.

More rigorous analysis of the changes between 1950 and 1980 than has been included in the descriptive account so far presented should be based on the data sets of size 371, following the steps set out in 1 and 2 above. It is recommended that the number of variables in each survey be reduced to those which are of most research interest and the two sets combined into one archive file. For the moment the comparisons drawn between the 1950

and 1980 findings for the study area (Somerset and south Avon), based as they are on slightly different sets of parishes, are broad ones. However, it is probable that the reduction of both data sets to 371 cases will not greatly affect the percentage figures for the various services in the study area and districts as a whole.

# APPENDIX 4

## ALPHABETICAL LIST OF PARISHES SURVEYED

PARISH NAME	RURAL DISTRICT 1950	DISTRICT 1974 BOUNDARIES
Abbas & Templecombe	Wincanton	Yeovil
Abbots Leigh	Long Ashton	Woodspring
Alford	Wincanton	Yeovil
Aller	Langport	Yeovil
Ansford	Wincan	Yeovil
Ash	Yeovil	Yeovil
Ashbrittle	Wellington	Taunton Deane
Ashcott	Bridgwater	Sedgemoor
Ashill	Chard	Yeovil
Ash Priors	Taunton	Taunton Deane
Ashwick	Shepton Mallet	Mendip
Axbridge	Axbridge	Sedgemoor
Babcary	Langport	Yeovil
Backwell	Long Ashton	Woodspring
Badgeworth	Axbridge	Sedgemoor
Baltonsborough	Wells	Mendip
Banwell	Axbridge	Woodspring
Barrington	Langport	Yeovil
Barrow Gurney	Long Ashton	Woodspring
Barton St David	Langport	Yeovil
Barwick	Yeovil	Yeovil
Batcombe	Shepton Mallet	Mendip
Bathampton	Bathavon	Wansdyke
Bathealton	Wellington	Taunton Deane
Batheaston	Bathavon	Wansdyke
Bathford	Bathavon	Wansdyke
Bawdrip	Bridgwater	Sedgemoor
Beckington	Frome	Mendip
Beercrocombe	Langport	Yeovil
Berkley	Frome	Mendip
Berrow	Axbridge	Sedgemoor
Bickenhall	Taunton	Taunton Deane
Bicknoller	Williton	West Somerset
Binegar	Shepton Mallet	Mendip
Bishop's Hull Without	Taunton	Taunton Deane
Bishop's Lydeard	Taunton	Taunton Deane
Blagdon	Axbridge	Woodspring
Bleadon	Axbridge	Woodspring
Bradford on Tone	Wellington	Taunton Deane
Bratton Seymour	Wincanton	Yeovil



Brean	Axbridge	Sedgemoor
Brent Knoll	Axbridge	Sedgemoor
Broadway	Chard	Yeovil
Brockley	Long Ashton	Woodspring
Brompton Ralph	Williton	West Somerset
Brompton Regis	Dulverton	West Somerset
Broomfield	Bridgwa	Sedgemoor
Brushford	Dulverton	West Somerset
Bruton	Wincanton	Yeovil
Brympton	Yeovil	Yeovil
Buckland Dinham	Frome	Mendip
Buckland St Mary	Chard	Yeovil
Burrington	Axbridge	Woodspring
Butcombe	Axbridge	Woodspring
Butleigh	Wells	Mendip
Cameley	Clutton	Wansdyke
Camerton	Bathavon	Wansdyke
Cannington	Bridgwater	Sedgemoor
Carhampton	Williton	West Somerset
Castle Cary	Wincanton	Yeovil
Catcott	Bridgwater	Sedgemoor
Chaffcombe	Chard	Yeovil
Chapel Allerton	Axbridge	Sedgemoor
Charlcombe	Bathavon	Wansdyke
Charlinch	Bridgwater	Sedgemoor
Charlton Horethorne	Wincanton	Yeovil
Charlton Mackrell	Langport	Yeovil
Charlton Musgrove	Wincanton	Yeovil
Cheddar	Axbridge	Sedgemoor
Cheddon Fitzpaine	Taunton	Taunton Deane
Chedzoy	Bridgwater	Sedgemoor
Chelwood	Clutton	Wansdyke
Chew Magna	Clutton	Wansdyke
Chew Stoke	Clutton	Wansdyke
Chewton Mendip	Wells	Mendip
Chilcompton	Clutton	Mendip
Chillington	Chard	Yeovil
Chilthorne Domer	Yeovi	Yeovil
Chilton Cantelo	Yeovil	Yeovil
Chilton Polden	Bridgwater	Sedgemoor
Chilton Trinity	Bridgwater	Sedgemoor
Chipstable	Wellington	Taunton Deane
Chiselborough	Yeovil	Yeovil
Churchill	Axbridge	Woodspring
Church Stanton	Taunton	Taunton Deane
Clapton in Gordano	Long Ashton	Woodspring
Clatworthy	Williton	West Somerset
Claverton	Bathavon	Wansdyke
Cleeve	Long Ashton	Woodspring
Closworth	Yeovil	Yeovil
Clutton	Clutton	Wansdyke
Coleford	Frome	Mendip
Combe Florey	Taunton	Taunton Deane
Combe Hay	Bathavon	Wansdyke

Combe St Nicholas	Chard	Yeovil
Compton Bishop	Axbridge	Sedgemoor
Compton Dando	Bathavon	Wansdyke
Compton Dundon	Langport	Yeovil
Compton Martin	Clutton	Wansdyke
Compton Pauncefoot	Wincanton	Yeovil
Congresbury	Axbridge	Woodspring
Corfe	Taunton	Taunton Deane
Corston	Bathavon	Wansdyke
Corton Denham	Wincanton	Yeovil
Cossington	Bridgwater	Sedgemoor
Cranmore	Shepton Mallet	Mendip
Creech St Michael	Taunton	Taunton Deane
Cricket St Thomas	Chard	Yeovil
Croscombe	Shepton Mallet	Mendip
Crowcombe	Williton	West Somerset
Cucklington	Wincanton	Yeovil
Cudworth	Chard	Yeovil
Curland	Taunton	Taunton Deane
Curry Mallet	Langport	Yeovil
Curry Rivel	Langport	Yeovil
Cutcombe	Williton	West Somerset
Dinder	Wells	Mendip
Dinnington	Chard	Yeovil
Ditcheat	Shepton Mallet	Mendip
Donyatt	Chard	Yeovil
Doulting	Shepton Mallet	Mendip
Dowlish Wake	Chard	Yeovil
Downhead	Shepton Mallet	Mendip
Drayton	Langport	Yeovil
Dulverton	Dulverton	West Somerset
Dundry	Long Ashton	Woodspring
Dunkerton	Bathavon	Wansdyke
Dunster	Williton	West Somerset
Durleigh	Bridgwater	Sedgemoor
Durstun	Taunton	Taunton Deane
East Brent	Axbridge	Sedgemoor
East Chinnoek	Yeovil	Yeovil
East Coker	Yeovil	Yeovil
East Harptree	Clutton	Wansdyke
East Huntspill	Bridgwater	Sedgemoor
Easton in Gordano	Long Ashton	Woodspring
East Pennard	Shepton Mallet	Mendip
East Quantoxhead	Williton	West Somerset
Edington	Bridgwater	Sedgemoor
Elm	Frome	Mendip
Elworthy	Williton	West Somerset
Emborough	Shepton Mallet	Mendip
Englishcombe	Bathavon	Wansdyke
Enmore	Bridgwater	Sedgemoor
Evercreech	Shepton Mallet	Mendip
Exford	Dulverton	West Somerset
Exmoor	Dulverton	West Somerset
Exton	Dulverton	West Somerset

Farmborough	Clutton	Wansdyke
Farrington Gurney	Clutton	Wansdyke
Fiddington	Bridgwater	Sedgemoor
Fitzhead	Wellington	Taunton Deane
Fivehead	Langport	Yeovil
Flax Bourton	Long Ashton	Woodspring
Freshford	Bathavon	Wansdyke
Goathurst	Bridgwater	Sedgemoor
Godney	Wells	Mendip
Greinton	Bridgwater	Sedgemoor
Halse	Taunton	Taunton Deane
Hardington Mandeville	Yeovil	Yeovil
Haselbury Plunknett	Yeovil	Yeovil
Hatch Beauchamp	Taunton	Taunton Deane
Hemington	Frome	Mendip
Henstridge	Wincanton	Yeovil
High Ham	Langport	Yeovil
High Littleton	Clutton	Wansdyke
Hinton Blewett	Clutton	Wansdyke
Hinton Charterhouse	Bathavon	Wansdyke
Hinton St Gregory	Chard	Yeovil
Holcombe	Shepton Mallet	Mendip
Holford	Williton	West Somerset
Holton	Wincanton	Yeovil
Horsington	Wincanton	Yeovil
Huish Champflower	Dulverton	West Somerset
Huish Episcopi	Langport	Yeovil
Hutton	Axbridge	Woodspring
Ilchester	Yeovil	Yeovil
Ilton	Chard	Yeovil
Isle Abbots	Langport	Yeovil
Isle Brewers	Langport	Yeovil
Keinton Mandeville	Langport	Yeovil
Kelston	Bathavon	Wansdyke
Kenn	Long Ashton	Woodspring
Kewstoke	Axbridge	Woodspring
Kilmersdon	Frome	Mendip
Kilve	Williton	West Somerset
Kingsbury Episcopi	Langport	Yeovil
Kingsdon	Langport	Yeovil
Kingstone	Chard	Yeovil
Kinstong St Mary	Taunton	Taunton Deane
Kingston Seymour	Long Ashton	Woodspring
Kingweston	Langport	Yeovil
Knowle St Giles	Chard	Yeovil
Lamyat	Shepton Mallet	Mendip
Langford Budville	Wellington	Taunton Deane
Langport	Langport	Yeovil
Leigh-on-Mendip	Frome	Mendip
Limington	Yeovil	Yeovil
Litton	Clutton	Mendip
Locking	Axbridge	Woodspring
Long Ashton	Long Ashton	Woodspring
Long Load	Yeovil	Yeovil

Long Sutton	Langport	Yeovil
Lopen	Chard	Yeovil
Lovington	Wincanton	Yeovil
Loxton	Axbridge	Woodspring
Luccombe	Williton	West Somerset
Lullington	Frome	Mendip
Luxborough	Williton	West Somerset
Lydeard St Lawrence	Taunton	Taunton Deane
Lydford	Shepton Mallet	Mendip
Lympsham	Axbridge	Sedgemoor
Lyng	Bridgwater	Sedgemoor
Maperton	Wincanton	Yeovil
Mark	Axbridge	Sedgemoor
Marksbury	Bathavon	Wansdyke
Marston Magna	Yeovil	Yeovil
Martock	Yeovil	Yeovil
Meare	Wells	Mendip
Mells	Frome	Mendip
Merriot	Chard	Yeovil
Middlezoy	Bridgwater	Sedgemoor
Milborne Port	Wincanton	Yeovil
Milton Clevedon	Shepton Mallet	Mendip
Milverton	Wellington	Taunton Deane
Misterton	Chard	Yeovil
Monksilver	Williton	West Somerset
Monkton Combe	Bathavon	Wansdyke
Montacute	Yeovil	Yeovil
Moorlinch	Bridgwater	Sedgemoor
Muchelney	Langport	Yeovil
Mudford	Yeovil	Yeovil
Nailsea	Long Ashton	Woodspring
Nempnett Thrubwell	Clutton	Wansdyke
Nether Stowey	Bridgwater	Sedgemoor
Nettlecombe	Williton	West Somerset
Newton St Loe	Bathavon	Wansdyke
North Barrow	Wincanton	Yeovil
North Cadbury	Wincanton	Yeovil
North Cheriton	Wincanton	Yeovil
North Curry	Taunton	Taunton Deane
North Perrott	Yeovil	Yeovil
North Petherton	Bridgwater	Sedgemoor
North Stoke	Bathavon	Wansdyke
North Weston	Long Ashton	Woodspring
North Wootton	Wells	Mendip
Norton Fitzwarren	Taunton	Taunton Deane
Norton Malreward	Clutton	Wansdyke
Norton St Philip	Frome	Mendip
Norton Sub Hamdon	Yeovil	Yeovil
Nunney	Frome	Mendip
Nynehead	Wellington	Taunton Deane
Oake	Wellington	Taunton Deane
Oare	Williton	West Somerset
Odcombe	Yeovi	Yeovil
Old Cleeve	Williton	West Somerset

Orchard Portman	Taunton	Taunton Deane
Othery	Bridgwater	Sedgemoor
Otterford	Taunton	Taunton Deane
Otterhampton	Bridgwater	Sedgemoor
Over Stowey	Bridgwater	Sedgemoor
Paulton	Clutton	Wansdyke
Pawlett	Bridgwater	Sedgemoor
Peasedown St John	-	Wansdyke
Penselwood	Wincanton	Yeovil
Pilton	Shepton Mallet	Mendip
Pitcombe	Wincanton	Yeovil
Pitminster	Taunton	Taunton Deane
Pitney	Langport	Yeovil
Porlock	Williton	West Somerset
Portbury	Long Ashton	Woodspring
Priddy	Wells	Mendip
Priston	Bathavon	Wansdyke
Publow	Clutton	Wansdyke
Pucklington	Langport	Yeovil
Puriton	Bridgwater	Sedgemoor
Puxton	Axbridge	Woodspring
Pylle	Shepton Mallet	Mendip
Queen Camel	Wincanton	Yeovil
Rimpton	Yeovil	Yeovil
Rode	Frome	Mendip
Rodney Stoke	Wells	Mendip
Ruishton	Taunton	Taunton Deane
St Catherine	Bathavon	Wansdyke
St Cuthbert Out	Wells	Mendip
Sampford Arundel	Wellington	Taunton Deane
Sampford Brett	Williton	West Somerset
Seavington St Mary	Chard	Yeovil
Seavington St Michael	Chard	Yeovil
Selwood	Frome	Mendip
Selworthy	Williton	West Somerset
Shapwick	Bridgwater	Sedgemoor
Sharpham	Wells	Mendip
Shepton Beauchamp	Chard	Yeovil
Shepton Montague	Wincanton	Yeovil
Shipham	Axbridge	Sedgemoor
Shoscombe	-	Wansdyke
Skilgate	Dulverton	West Somerset
Somerton	Langport	Yeovil
South Barrow	Wincanton	Yeovil
South Cadbury	Wincanton	Yeovil
South Pertherton	Yeovil	Yeovil
South Stoke	Bathavon	Wansdyke
Sparkford	Wincanton	Yeovil
Spaxton	Bridgwater	Sedgemoor
Stanton Drew	Clutton	Wansdyke
Staple Fitzpaine	Taunton	Taunton Deane
Staplegrove	Taunton	Taunton Deane
Stawell	Bridgwater	Sedgemoor
Stawley	Wellington	Taunton Deane

Stockland Bristol	Bridgwater	Sedgemoor
Stocklinch	Chard	Yeovil
Stogumber	Williton	West Somerset
Stogursey	Williton	West Somerset
Stoke St Gregory	Taunton	Taunton Deane
Stoke St Mary	Taunton	Taunton Deane
Stoke St Michael	-	Mendip
Stoke Sub Hamdon	Yeovil	Yeovil
Stoke Trister	Wincanton	Yeovil
Ston Easton	Clutton	Mendip
Stowey-Sutton	Clutton	Wansdyke
Stratton-on-the-Fosse	Shepton Mallet	Mendip
Stringston	Williton	West Somerset
Swainswick	Bathavon	Wansdyke
Tellisford	Frome	Mendip
Thorn Falcon	Taunton	Taunton Deane
Thorne St Margaret	Wellington	Taunton Deane
Thurloxton	Bridgwater	Sedgemoor
Tickenham	Long Ashton	Woodspring
Timberscombe	Williton	West Somerset
Timsbury	Clutton	Wansdyke
Tintinhull	Yeovil	Yeovil
Tolland	Taunton	Taunton Deane
Treborough	Williton	West Somerset
Trudoxhill	Frome	Mendip
Trull	Taunton	Taunton Deane
Ubley	Clutton	Wansdyke
Upton	Dulverton	West Somerset
Upton Noble	Frome	Mendip
Walton	Wells	Mendip
Walton in Gordano	Long Ashton	Woodspring
Wambrook	Chard	Yeovil
Wanstrow	Frome	Mendip
Wayford	Chard	Yeovil
Weare	Axbridge	Sedgemoor
Wedmore	Axbridge	Sedgemoor
Wellow	Bathavon	Wansdyke
Wembdon	Bridgwater	Sedgemoor
West Bagborough	Taunton	Taunton Deane
West Bradley	Shepton Mallet	Mendip
West Buckland	Wellington	Taunton Deane
Westbury	Wells	Mendip
West Camel	Yeovil	Yeovil
West Chinnock	Yeovil	Yeovil
West Coker	Yeovil	Yeovil
West Crewkerne	Chard	Yeovil
West Harptree	Clutton	Wansdyke
West Hatch	Taunton	Taunton Deane
West Huntspill	Bridgwater	Sedgemoor
West Monkton	Taunton	Taunton Deane
Weston in Gordano	Long Ashton	Woodspring
Westonzoyland	Bridgwater	Sedgemoor
West Pennard	Wells	Mendip
West Quantoxhead	Williton	West Somerset

Whatley  
Whitchurch  
Whitelackington  
Whitestaunton  
Wick St Lawrence  
Williton  
Wincanton  
Winford  
Winscombe  
Winsford  
Winsham  
Witham Friary  
Withycombe  
Withypool  
Wiveliscombe  
Wookey  
Woolavington  
Wootton Courtney  
Wraxall  
Wrington  
Yarlinton  
Yatton  
Yeovilton

Frome  
Bathavon  
Chard  
Chard  
Axbridge  
Williton  
Wincanton  
Long Ashton  
Axbridge  
Dulverton  
Chard  
Frome  
Williton  
Dulverton  
Wellington  
Wells  
Bridgwater  
Williton  
Long Ashton  
Axbridge  
Wincanton  
Long Ashton  
Yeovil

Mendip  
Wansdyke  
Yeovil  
Yeovil  
Woodspring  
West Somerset  
Yeovil  
Woodspring  
Woodspring  
West Somerset  
Yeovil  
Mendip  
West Somerset  
West Somerset  
Taunton Deane  
Mendip  
Sedgemoor  
West Somerset  
Woodspring  
Woodspring  
Yeovil  
Woodspring  
Yeovil

# APPENDIX 5 CODING SCHEME FOR BRACEY'S QUESTIONNAIRES

CARD 1			
1 - 4	Parish code number	Identific- ation	
5	Questionnaire coverage		missing value 0
			details of more than one
			village available 6
			refers to whole parish 7
			part of parish only 8
			coverage not distinguished
			/uncertain 9
6 - 7	Year of survey		Record last two digits of year eg 1950=50
<u>PUBLIC UTILITY SERVICES</u>			
8	Electricity services		No response (NR) 0
			Don't know (dk) 9
			No main electricity 1
			Electricity company named 2
9	Main gas services		NR 0
			dk 9
			No mains gas 1
			Gas company named 2
10	Water supplies		NR 0
			dk 9
			No piped water 1
			Piped water most houses 2
			Piped water standpipes 3
			Piped water most houses + standpipes 4
			Piped water most houses + other supply (eg well) 5
			Standpipes + other 6
11	Sewage		NR 0
			dk 9
			No mains sewer to most houses 1
			Mains sewer most houses 2
12	Household refuse collection		NR 0
			dk/frequency not specified 9
			No refuse collection 1
			Once a week 2
			Once a fortnight 3
			Once every 3 weeks 4
			Monthly 5
			Less often/infrequent/ 'irregular' 6
13	Public telephone call box		NR 0
			dk 9
			No 1
			Yes (includes more than 1) 2
14	Police station or cottage		NR 0
			dk 9
			No 1
			Yes 2
15	Post Office		NR 0
			dk 9
			None 1
			Yes 2
			More than one 3



16	Fire station	NR	0
		dk	9
		No	8
		Yes	1
17-19	<u>SHOPS</u> Record the <u>number</u> of shops in the Parish. Count from the 1950 survey. (Note: any closures or openings since 1947 record on last card) <u>Include</u> cafes, off licences & tea premises as shops. <u>Ignore</u> info on counters in other shops except where useful in spotting general stores. <u>Omit</u> blacksmiths, chimney sweeps, household repair, car & cycle repairs, radio repairs, saddlers, (rec under industry) and undertakers (record under professional services).	Record the number of shops in 3 cols. i.e. 10 shops = 010  NR 000 dk 999 None 888  Include chemists also.	
20-59	Shop types (code P.O. as 03 in each case code garage as 40)	Using attached list of shop codes, list shop types (max 20). If more than 20 shops make use of combination codes.	
60-63 64-67 68-71 72-75 76-79	<u>SHOPPING VISITS TO OTHER CENTRES</u>  Towns/villages commonly visited for shopping etc  1st place 2nd place 3rd place 4th place 5th place	Record up to 5 places using parish code numbers & place codes. (list attached).	
80	CARD NUMBER 1		
<u>CARD 2</u>			
1-7	Identification	As Card 1	
8-9	<u>TRAVELLING SHOPS/DELIVERIES</u> Record the number of travelling shops & delivery services. Deduce this from 1950 survey.	Record number of travelling shops + deliveries in 2 cols. NR 00 dk 99 None 88 One 01 etc	
10-11 12-15 16-17 18-21 22-23 24-27 28-29 30-33 34-35 36-39 40-41 42-45	For each travelling shop or service record its type and place of origin using list of travelling shop codes + parish codes & place codes.  Goods sold - Tradesman 1 Place of origin - Tradesman 1 Goods - Tradesman 2 Place - " Goods - " 3 Place - " 3 Goods - " 4 Place - " 4 Goods - " 5 Place - " 5 Goods - " 6 Place - " 6	Each travelling shop requires 6 cols. Max 10 may be recorded. NB Use code 20 for each service specified as a delivery.	

46-47	Goods - Tradesman	7
48-51	Place - "	7
52-53	Goods - "	8
54-57	Place - "	8
58-59	Goods - "	9
60-63	Place - "	9
64-65	Goods - "	10
66-69	Place - "	10

### PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

For each service record the number in each parish using the 1950 survey. Ignore other places visited. For frequency of service (where available) refer to 1947 survey.

NB: DO NOT RECORD HEALTH SERVICES IN THIS SECTION.

70	Number of banks	1950 data
71	Number of accountants	dk freq.
72	<u>Vets</u>	
73	Frequency of vet service	
74	<u>Solicitors</u>	
75	Frequency of solicitors service	
76	<u>Auctioneers Estate agents</u>	
77	Frequency of auc estate agents	
78	<u>Other professional services</u> eg uncertaxers)	
79	Frequency of other prof. services	

For each service:

<u>Number</u>	NR	0
	not specified/dk	9
	none	8
	yes one	1
	two	2 etc
	more than 5	7
<u>Frequency</u>	NR	0
	not specified/dk	9
	daily ie service is full time	1
	service is part time	2
	mobile service	3 *
	service is fortnightly or less often	4

\* For compatibility with 1980 codes

80 CARD NUMBER 2

### CARD 3

1-7	Identification	As Card 1
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### HEALTH SERVICE

Omit District Nurse.

Ignore visits from elsewhere

8	<u>Doctor's surgery</u>	
9	Frequency of doctor's surgery	
10	<u>Dental surgery</u>	
11	Frequency of dental surgery	
12	<u>Chemist</u>	
13	Frequency of chemist's service	
14	<u>Optician</u>	
15	Frequency of optician's service	

For each service :	NR	0
	dk	9
	none	1
	yes	2

Frequency: As for professional services

16	<u>Child Welfare clinic</u>	
17	Frequency of child clinic	

NR/NA	0
not specified/dk	9
daily	1
weekly or more often	2
fortnightly	3
monthly or less often	4

18	Is there a <u>hospital</u> in the parish which is recorded as being usually used ?	
----	--	--

NR	0
dk	9
none	1
yes, usually used	2
yes, other type (eg sanatorium, mental hospital	3

# TRANSPORT

19	Nearest bus stop (1947)	NR	0
		not specified/dk	9
		In village/within $\frac{1}{2}$ mile	2
		More than $\frac{1}{2}$ mile away	3
		No bus service	1
20	Nearest railway station (1947)	NR	0
		not specified/dk	9
		In village/within $\frac{1}{2}$ mile	2
		Between $\frac{1}{2}$ & 5 miles	3
		No rail service	1
21	Max number of buses each way every week day (1950) Ignore Saturday & market day services & times of 1st & last buses & trains.	NR/NA/No bus service	0
		not specified/dk	9
		10 or fewer/every 2 hours	1
		11 - 20/every hour	2
		21 - 30/every $\frac{1}{2}$ hour	3
		31 - 40/every 20 mins	4
		41 - 50	5
		More than 50	6
		'frequent' or some other description	7
		not every week day	8
22	Max number of trains each way every week day (1947)	As for buses.	
23	Any Sunday services ?	NR	0
		not specified/dk	9
		none	1
		yes, buses	2
		yes, trains	3
		yes, both buses & trains	4
24	Car hire service (1947)	NR	0
		dk	9
		no	1
		yes	2
	Details of special local transport arrangements (market days)	Multiple response format Max. 4 from the following:	
25	1st arrangement	NR	0
26	2nd arrangement	dk	9
27	3rd arrangement	None/same as other days	1
28	4th arrangement	special market day bus (private hire)	2
		private cars	3
		bus services normally run only on market days	4
		Extra buses on certain days	5
		Extra trains	6
		other (eg most people cycle)	8

# PUBLIC FACILITIES

29	Number of churches (1947)	NR	0
30	Number of pubs hotels (1950)	dk/not specified	9
		None	8
		One	1
		Two	2 etc
		More than 6	7
31	Number of cinemas (1947 & 1950) Ignore other places visited	NR	0
		not specified/dk	9
		None	8
		One or more	1
		Visiting mobile service	2

32	Library	NR	0
		not specified/dk	9
		None	8
		Branch library	1
		Mobile	2 branch &
		Private circulating	3 circulating 4
		(1950)	
<div>EDUCATION</div>		1950 Ignore where children go outside parish	
33	Junior school	NR	0
34	Secondary modern	dk	9
35	Grammar	No	1
36	All standard	Yes	2
37	Other school		
38	Adult Education	NR	0
		dk	9
		None	1
		Yes - type not specified	2
		WEA	3
		County Evening Inst.	4
		Other adult education	5
		Two of these	6
		All three	7
<div>HALLS</div>			
39	Number of halls in the parish	NR	0
		None	8
		One	1 etc ... 6
		7 or more	7
		dk	9
Record detail on up to 7 halls using both 1947 & 1950 surveys. Ignore information on seating etc and detail on fabric of village halls.		* Type of hall : NR/NA ie no halls 0 is a hall, but no details 8 village hall/community centre/village club 1 school hall 2 church hall/chapel room 3 scout/cub/brownie/guide 4 other hall or hut (eg WI) 5 Pub room 6 Meeting room in some other building (eg rectory) 7	
40	1st hall - type		
41	" - owner/management		
42	2nd hall - type		
43	" - owner/management		
44	3rd hall - type		
45	" - owner/management		
46	4th hall - type		
47	" - owner/management		
48	5th hall - type		
49	" - owner/management		
50	6th hall - type		
51	" - owner/management		
52	7th hall - type		
53	" - owner/management		
		* Ownership/Management of hall : NR/NA ie no halls 0 is a hall, but no details 8 dk 9 charity trustees/hall management committee 1 parish council 2 school/LEA 3 church organisation 4 main user (eg WI, RBL) 5 other organisation (eg Duchy of Cornwall) 6 Private owner (eg brewery in case of pub room) 7	

# SOCIAL ORGANISATIONS

Use both 1947 & 1950 surveys

## Young people

54	Scouts/cubs/brownies/guides	For each club etc :	NR	0
55	where held		dk	9
56	Army cadets/ATC/Girls Training Corps.		No	1
57	where held		Yes	2

## \* Where held :

NA/NR	0
not specified/varies/dk	9
village hall/community centre	1
school hall/school	2
church/chapel hall or room	3
other hall/hut(eg WI, scout)	4
pub room	5
in some other building	6
private house	7
outside parish	8

NB If more than 1 place given, record the first one.

58	Youth club	NR	0
59	where held	dk	9
		none	1
		yes, mixed	2
		yes, boys only	3
		yes, girls only	4
		yes, both boys club & girls club	5
		yes, mixed + boys or girls	6

60	Church groups (Include Sunday school, Girls Friendly society etc)	As cols. 54 & 56
61	where held	

62	Other young peoples' organisations (Include Boys Brigade & St Johns Ambulance)	
63	where held	

## Adults

64	Royal British Legion
65	where held

66	Rotary/Round Table
67	where held

68	WI
69	where held

70	WRVS
71	where held

72	Church or chapel groups (include Mothers' Union)
73	where held

74	Music/Drama/Listening or discussion group (Include choirs, brass bands & orchestras)
75	where held

76	Political clubs
77	where held

78-79 BLANK

80 CARD NO. 3

CARD 4			
1-7 Identification			
8-19	Other adult organisations	Multiple Response format	
	Record up to 6 additional groups using 2 cols for each - for type and where held. 12 cols in all.	NR	0
		None	1
		Other mens clubs	2
		Other womens clubs (eg Coop guild)	3
		community/social clubs	4
		clubs for outdoor sports (eg cricket,rifle, fishing)	5
		clubs for indoor sports (eg akittles)	6
		annual events committees	7
		other (eg gardening, poultry, q.21-24 on 1947 survey)	8
<u>SOCIAL EVENTS</u>			
20	Regular dances	NR	0
	Include ballroom & traditional	dk	9
	Ignore info. on sponsors & freq.	no	1 If no leave col 21 blank.
	If held in more than one place, record 1st place as where held.	yes	2
		occasional	3
21	where held	As for social organisations.	
22	Regular whist drives		
23	where held	As for regular dances	
<u>OPEN SPACE</u> (1947)			
24	School playing field	NR	0
25	Park or recreation ground	dk	9
26	Common	no	1
27	Allotments	yes	2
<u>MISCELLANEOUS</u>			
28	Parish council (or Parish meeting)	NR	0
		dk	9
		no	1
		yes	2
29	Number of houses built in the parish 1931-47	NR	0
		dk	9
		none	1
		20 or less	2
		21-40	3
		41-60	4
		61-80	5
		81-100	6
		More than 100	7
30-59	<u>INDUSTRY</u> Types of industry listed (1947)	Record up to 10 firms or industries using the Standard Industrial Classification. Revised 1980 edition (London, HMSO 1979)	
		NR	000
		<u>Examples</u>	
		None besides	Household repairs 501
		agriculture 010	Blacksmith 312
		dk 999	Chimney sweep 923
		Industrial	Car repairs 671
		estate 888	Cycle repairs 673
		Most work	radio
		outside parish	Saddler 442
		777	Forestry 020
			Gloving 453

60-64	Parish population 1951 (5 cols)	eg Pop 138 codes as 00138 None 888 dk 999
65-67	1950 Whole Time Farm Workers (sum 3)	"
68-77	BLANK	
78	Questionnaire availability	Questionnaire available: For both 1950 & 1947 1 For 1950 only 2 For 1947 only 3 Both available but unusable 4 Both available but 1947 unusable 5 Amalgamation of parishes 6
79	Additional material eg letters available for this parish	No 0 Yes 1
80	CARD NO. 4	
<b>CARD 5</b>	CHANGES	
1-7	Identification	
	<b>BOUNDARY CHANGES</b> between 1947 and 1950	No change 0 Parish enlarged 1 Parish decreased in size 2 Loss in some areas, gain in others 3 New parish created 4 Don't know 9
9-20	Parishes to which area lost, or from which area gained.	Record up to three parishes using 4 figure parish codes. Names parish no longer in existence by 1950 7777
21-22	Year of boundary change (if known)	Record last two digits of year. NR/NA ie no change 00 dk 99
	<b>CHANGES IN SERVICES OR FACILITIES</b> between 1947 and 1950	
23-32	<u>Loss of facilities</u>	Multiple Response Format.
	Record loss of up to 5 facilities from the list of possibles	Missing values 00 dk 99 Post Office 01 Shop/Artisan service 02 Professional service 03 Bus service 04 Train service 05 Church/place of worship 06 Pub/Hotel 07 Cinema 08
	(include up grading or downgrading of services eg more/less buses)	

33-42	<u>Gain of facilities</u>	Police station	09
		Fire station	10
	Up to 5 facilities, as losses.	Library	11
		Doctor	12
		Dentist	13
		Optician	14
		Chemist	15
		Hospital	16
		Junior school	17
		Secondary school (inc gram)	18
		All age school	19
		Other school	20
		Adult education	21
		Hall	22
		Club or social org.	23
		other eg employment	88



## **APPENDIX 6**

### **THE PARISHES OF SOMERSET IN 1950 : SERVICES**

This paper presents an account of services in the rural parishes of postwar Somerset based on the data extracted from Bracey's two surveys. The aim is not simply to draw a picture of rural Somerset in 1950, although this is interesting in itself. Rather, the construction of the account involves discussion of the questions Bracey asked and the nature and availability of information on the various topics and is an important step in assessing the value of the data as a basis for the construction of a comparative study thirty years on. Attention is also given to the distribution of facilities in parishes of different population sizes and in the different districts of the study area.

In the following sections, public utilities, shops, visiting tradesmen and deliveries, professional and health services, public transport, public facilities such as churches, and educational provision are discussed. A second paper (Appendix 7 of this thesis) describes social and sporting facilities and social life. The questionnaires are reproduced as Appendix 1 and 2.

#### **1. Public Utilities**

##### **1.1 Mains electricity, gas, water and sewers and household refuse collection**

At the time of Bracey's first survey, in 1947, mains electricity was supplied to the parishes of Somerset by a number of small companies (for example, Wessex Electricity Company, Bath Corporation Electricity Works and the Exe Valley Electricity Company), and in his survey Bracey asked for the 'Name of the electricity supply undertaking'. In interpreting the information thus obtained it has been assumed that if the respondent replied 'none' the parish was not connected to a mains supply, whereas if the name of a company was recorded then a mains supply was available to at least part of the parish.

According to the survey information, the majority of rural parishes - over 80 per cent of those in the study area - had mains electricity in 1947 (Table 1). However, a more detailed examination of the pattern of connection to the mains clearly suggests that parishes with larger populations were more likely to be connected than those that were less well populated. (For example, of the parishes with more than 270 persons, which made up two thirds of the total number, only 11 per cent were not supplied, and of the 74 parishes (19.6 per cent of the total) without mains electricity, 64 per cent had 1951 populations of less than 270).

At district level, the highest rate of connection to the mains (97 per cent of parishes) was in present day Woodspring, where only one parish (Butcombe) was without mains supply. Wansdyke also had a high rate of connection - about 81 per cent. The lowest rate of connection was to be found in West Somerset where only half the parishes had mains electricity.

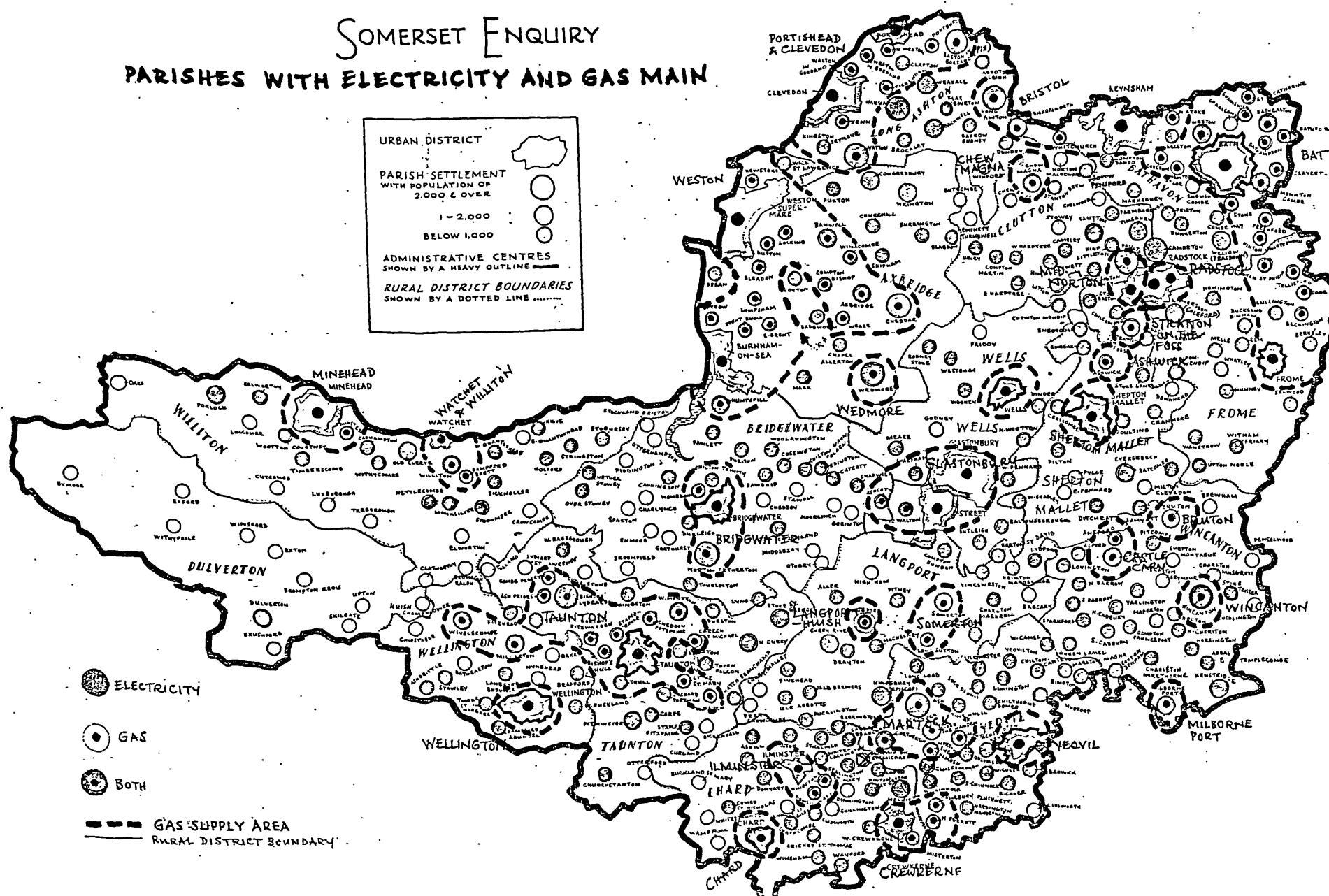
The pattern of electricity supply by 1974 District is a clear reflection of the distribution by old Rural Districts. In Frome and Long Ashton all the rural parishes were connected, as were over 95 per cent of those in Axbridge and Yeovil. Map 1 shows Bracey's illustration of parishes with mains electricity and gas in 1947.

TABLE 7 PUBLIC UTILITIES IN 1947, BY 1951 PARISH POPULATION

Parishes with:	Parish population size classes:										All Responding Parishes No. %	
	1 - 90 No. %	91-270 No. %	271-750 No. %	751-2040 No. %	2040-5550 No. %							
Mains electricity	4 44.4	80 65.6	126 83.4	74 97.4	20 100.0	304	80.4					
Mains gas	- -	15 12.3	26 17.2	34 44.7	17 85.0	92	24.3					
Piped water	6 66.7	100 82.0	135 89.4	74 97.4	20 100.0	335	88.6					
Mains sewer	- -	7 5.8	40 26.7	37 50.7	16 80.0	100	26.8					
Regular household refuse collection (at least monthly)	7 87.5	103 84.4	140 94.0	74 97.4	19 95.0	343	91.5					
All Parishes	9 2.4	122 32.3	151 39.9	76 20.1	20 5.3	378	100.0					

# SOMERSET ENQUIRY

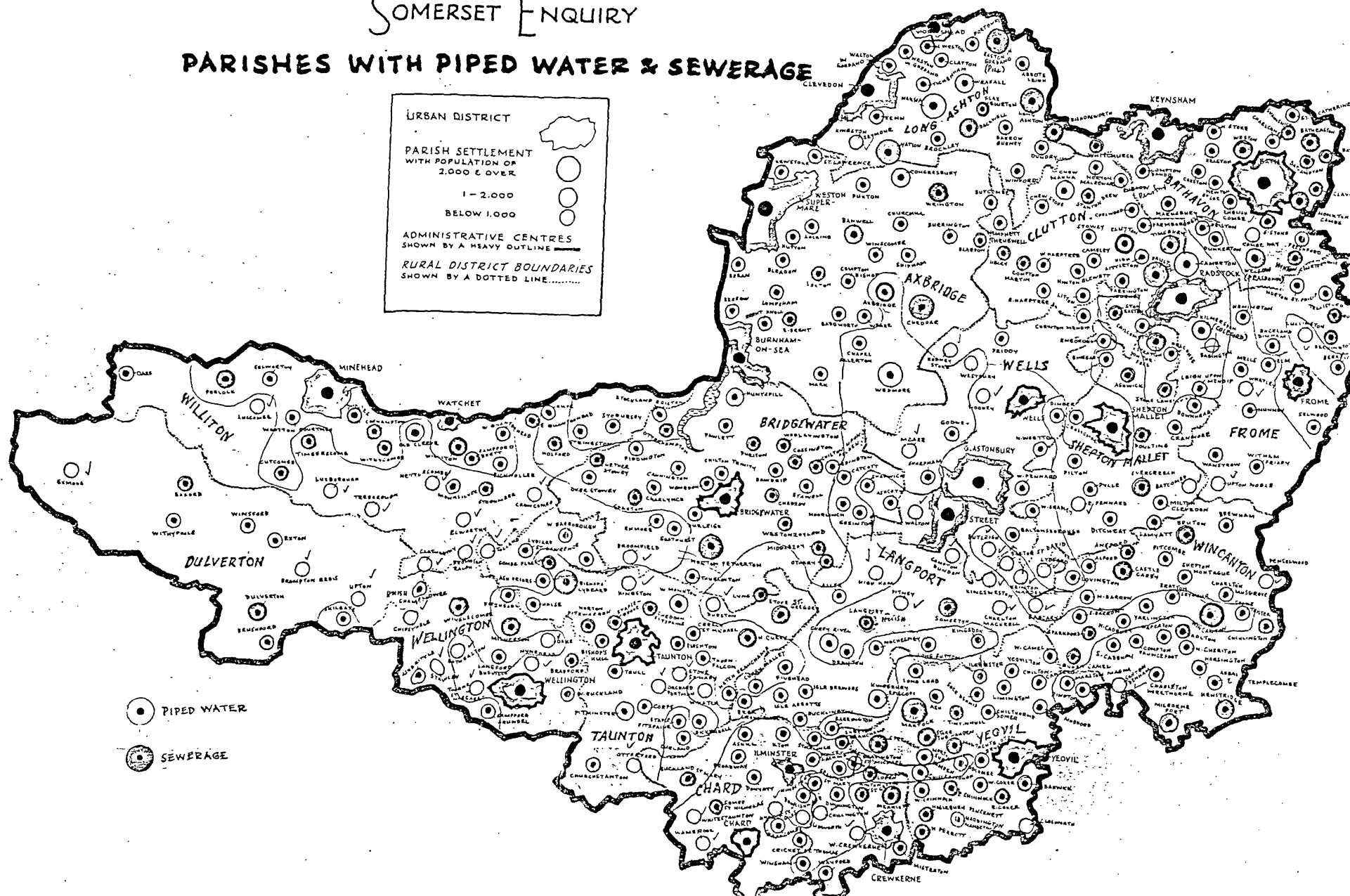
## PARISHES WITH ELECTRICITY AND GAS MAIN



From an illustration by the Bristol University  
Reconstruction Research Group

# SOMERSET ENQUIRY

## PARISHES WITH PIPED WATER & SEWERAGE



From an illustration by the Bristol University  
Reconstruction Research Group

In investigating gas supplies to the parishes, Bracey made use of a similar question to that posed for electricity supplies, asking for the 'Name of gas supply undertaking', and it has been assumed that the response 'none' indicated that no mains gas was supplied to the parish while the naming of a company (for example Bath Gas, Light and Coke Co.) indicated that a supply was available.

The results suggest that only 24 per cent of parishes had a mains gas supply in 1947 (Table 1). The district pattern of connection reflected a good supply of mains gas in the parishes close to Bristol, Bath and Taunton. Bathavon was best served of the old Rural Districts. West Somerset was again worst served, with only 3 parishes (Dunster, Williton and Sampford Brett) connected to the mains.

Bracey asked whether piped water was available to most houses in the parish or at standpipes only. In coding the replies it was necessary to adopt a scheme which allowed various response combinations.

The majority of parishes in the study area - 70 per cent - had piped water to most houses in 1947. However, in nearly 19 per cent of parishes some houses had to rely on standpipes or other supplies such as wells. Furthermore, in over 11 per cent of parishes there was no piped water at all (Table 1, and see Map 2). While the distribution of parish water supplies by old Rural Districts is not considered in detail here, it is worth noting that in Wellington and Wells substantial numbers of parishes (43 per cent of the total in each) had no piped water, and in Langport a third of the parishes had none. In Axbridge, Clutton and Yeovil RDs, however, no parishes were without at least standpipe supplies.

The 1947 questionnaire asked whether a main sewer was connected to 'most houses' in the parish. The majority of parishes - over 73 per cent - responded that this was not the case (Table 1). Again, the parishes with the smallest populations were least likely to be on the mains, with no parishes of less than 90 persons, and only 17 per cent of those with populations of between 91 and 750 giving positive replies to this question. It was not unusual for parishes with more than 2050 people to be without main sewer to most houses. (see Map 2).

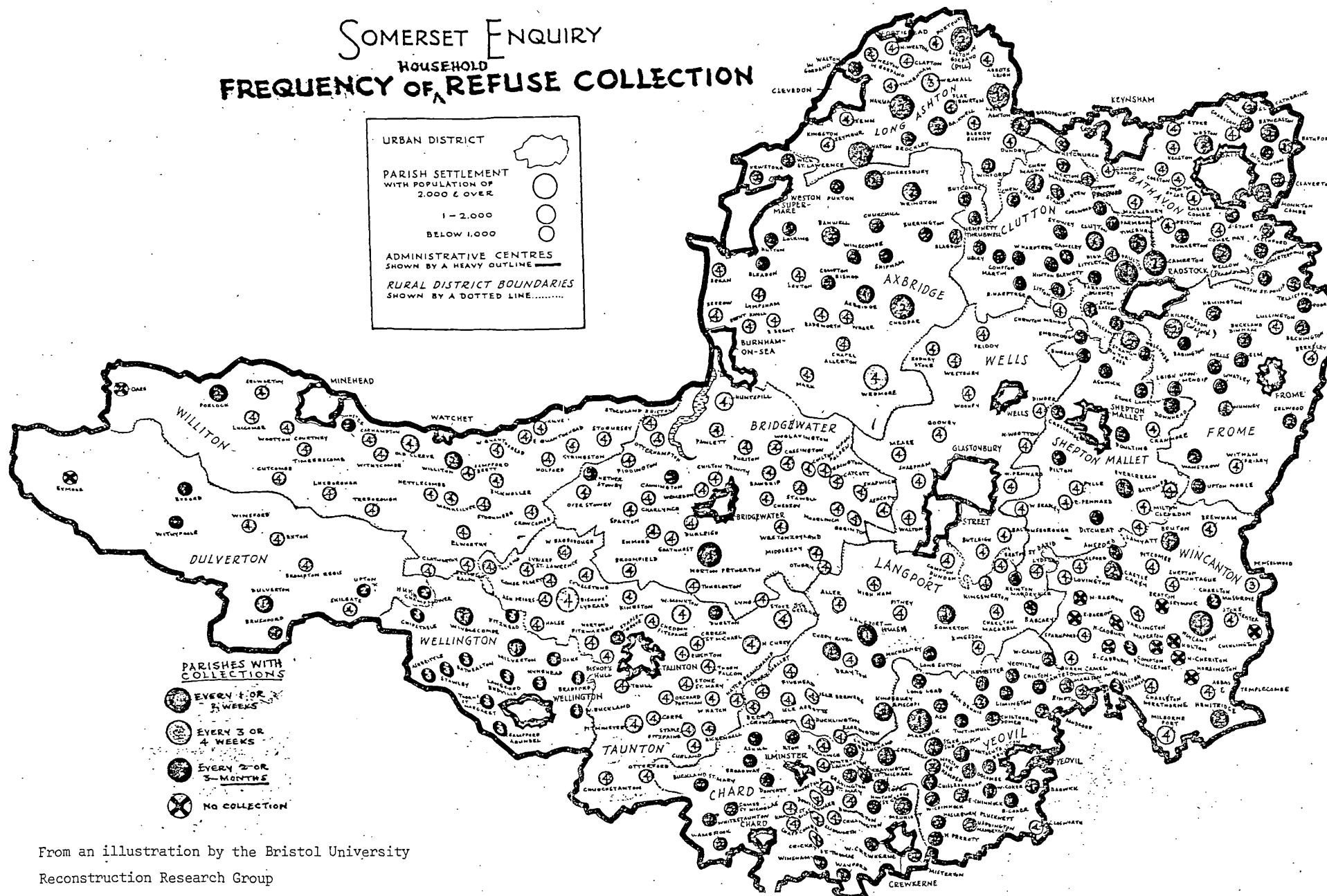
At a district level, the best served were Wansdyke, Woodspring and West Somerset with, respectively, 31, 29.4 and 30 per cent of parishes having main sewer to most houses, a reflection of relatively high rates of connection in the old RDs of, for example, Bathavon and Williton. Worst served was Mendip where only 18.5 per cent of parishes responded positively to this question. In Wells Rural District, now part of Mendip, no parish had mains sewers in 1947.

There was also a question about the frequency of household refuse collection and Bracey asked that the reply should be phrased as 'once every.... weeks'. The summarised results are shown in Table 1. Only 15 parishes (4 per cent) had no refuse collection in 1947, although in 17 parishes the collection was said to be irregular or infrequent. Map 3 provides an illustration.

Of those parishes with a regular refuse collection, half had a monthly service and 30 per cent had a collection every two weeks. Rather less common was a weekly collection (50 cases) and a three-weekly collection (2 cases). Thus while the majority of parishes had a refuse collection in 1947 the frequency of the service varied widely. Not unexpectedly, places with larger populations tended to have more frequent refuse collection than the less populated places.

Examination of the information on household refuse collection by district suggests that in 1947 the most frequently served districts were those which now make up Wansdyke and Woodspring. In Wansdyke, where 74 per cent of parishes had a weekly or fortnightly round, reflecting the good performance of the old Clutton

# SOMERSET ENQUIRY HOUSEHOLD FREQUENCY OF REFUSE COLLECTION



From an illustration by the Bristol University  
Reconstruction Research Group

RD, only Camerton reported an infrequent or irregular collection and none lacked a refuse collection altogether. In Woodspring, where 63 per cent of parishes had a weekly or fortnightly collection, all parishes had a regular collection and none complained of infrequent rounds.

Well over half of all cases of irregular or infrequent collection were reported in present day Taunton Deane, a reflection of the fact that the old RD of Wells had only 2 parishes with a regular service. However, in both Taunton Deane and West Somerset a monthly service was much more usual.

The crosstabulation of one service with another, not reproduced here, indicates that parishes lacking in one basic service were likely to lack others also, and reinforce the finding that a distinct spatial variation existed in the pattern of provision of utility services.

For example, of those parishes without mains electricity in 1947, 95.9 per cent had no mains gas, 23 per cent had no piped water, 92 per cent had no mains sewer and about 18 per cent had an infrequent or irregular household refuse collection or no collection at all. Of those parishes with mains electricity, 29 per cent had mains gas, nearly 85 per cent had a piped water supply to at least some households, 31.4 per cent had mains sewers and 6.3 per cent had infrequent or irregular refuse collection or none at all.

Further crosstabulations allow a comparison of the presence or absence of mains electricity, gas, water, sewerage and refuse collection in each district (Table 2). This suggests that those parts of the county now in West Somerset and Taunton Deane tended to contain the largest number of parishes lacking in basic utilities; a reflection of the particularly poor showing for these services in the old Rural District of Dulverton and, to a lesser extent, Wellington. Woodspring and Wansdyke contained the largest numbers of better served parishes, largely because of the good performance of parishes in the old Rural Districts of Clutton, Long Ashton, Axbridge and Bathavon.

To summarise, most parishes had mains electricity and water in 1947, but only just over a quarter had mains sewer to most houses and even fewer were supplied with mains gas. Refuse collection seems to have been widespread, but there was wide variation in the frequency of the services. It is also evident that there was marked spatial variation in the pattern of utility supplies. That part of the study area now in south Avon was frequently better off than the rest as far as these public utilities were concerned. West Somerset tended to be the least well served district. Overall it appears to be the case that parishes with larger populations were likely to be better served than the less well populated places.

Although gas supplies and household refuse collection rarely attracted comment, respondents frequently wrote in some detail about electricity, water and sewerage services, mostly to describe the ways in which the services were provided or to complain about their absence, often keenly felt. In some cases improvements were recorded between 1947 and 1950. At Badgeworth (Sedgemoor district), for example, the situation in 1947 was as follows:

The sawmills, the garage at Biddisham and two private houses generate their own power and light and ...there are about 8 houses supplied with electric light by the North Somerset Electricity Co. The village was canvassed about a year ago with regard to having electric light, but we have heard nothing further.

By 1950 the respondent was able to comment enthusiastically: 'I must tell you that there is now electricity in the village'.

TABLE 2 PERCENTAGE OF PARISHES WITHOUT CERTAIN PUBLIC UTILITY SERVICES IN 1947

District	No elec. No gas	No elec. No piped water	No elec. No sewer	No elec. No/irreg. refuse coll. water	No sewer No piped water
Mendip	11.1	[ 0.0 ]	11.1	1.9	15.7
Sedgemoor	28.0	2.0	20.4	[ 0.0 ]	4.1
Taunton Deane	19.6	[ 13.0 ]	21.7	8.9	[ 21.7 ]
West Somerset	[ 50.0 ]	12.5	[ 45.0 ]	[ 10.2 ]	12.5
Yeovil	13.5	4.5	13.9	3.6	13.9
Wansdyke	14.3	[ 0.0 ]	19.0	[ 0.0 ]	[ 2.4 ]
Woodspring	[ 2.9 ]	[ 0.0 ]	[ 2.9 ]	[ 0.0 ]	2.9
All parishes	18.8	4.5	18.2	3.5	11.5
Worst served district for each pair of utilities	[ ]				
				Districts with lowest percentages of poorly served parishes	[ ]



Whitestaunton, in Yeovil district, where an electricity supply was said to be 'badly needed' had also been surveyed by an electricity company.

The parishioners were asked by the South Somerset Electricity Co. if they would like a supply to be laid on for the village. They all asked to have it. The farmers want it for their milking machines.

Some improvements had been made by 1950, but through local efforts rather than those of the electricity company. The respondent commented that 'the houses directly around the manor are now supplied with electricity from [the] manor plant'.

Bickenhall in Taunton Deane and Kingstone in Yeovil district also lacked electricity supplies in 1947. The respondent for Kingstone remarked, 'we are quite content but would like an early installation of electricity, and modern sewerage. The water supply is good'.

Comments about water supplies and sewerage were particularly numerous, revealing the patchy nature of the supply of these two basic utilities, which the overall parish figures sometimes disguise. For example, in Luxborough (West Somerset) where there were 'pumps in the houses and pipes in the road', it was the case that 'several farmers have had water pipes laid on to farms and cottages privately and water rate is payable to the individual farmer. These houses have flush lavatories but most of the village cottages have a cesspool'. And at Stoke St Mary, adjoining the borough of Taunton, piped water was available to houses nearest the town but outlying parts of the parish depended on wells. A scheme had been 'prepared to bring water to the village and provide sewerage as soon as circumstances permitted'.

There was also a formal scheme at Stratton on the Fosse, part of a plan prepared for the parish following a conference on the Scott Report. In June 1947 the parish was supplied with water from the reservoir at Downside and a private charge for this service was made by the Downside Abbey Trustees. The North Somerset Electric Supply Co. provided mains electricity to the village of Stratton on the Fosse and the Chilcompton area where there was street lighting, although several houses were without a supply. For sewerage the majority of the houses had to rely on cess pits, although the Downside Abbey Trustees had their own disposal works at Linkmead and this served some of their properties in Stratton on the Fosse. Two other small disposal works served other groups of houses in the parish. The list of post war requirements for the parish included the extension of the electricity mains to outlying parts and the development of a general scheme of sewage disposal for the whole parish.

In some places the lack of adequate water supply and sewerage facilities was identified as a 'pressing' or 'chief' need, occasionally, as at Butleigh, providing a major obstacle to new housing development. At Kewstoke the sanitation was described as 'primitive'.

The respondent for Whatley noted that

One of the chief disadvantages is the lack of water supply to the houses, although the district is well watered. The occupant of Manor Farm depends solely on drinking water for household and cattle on water transported daily in milk churns from Frome - a distance of nearly 3 miles.

But perhaps the most graphic description of the problem was provided by the respondent for Stocklinch who commented simply, 'the sewerage system wants looking into and bringing up to date'.

## **1.2 Public telephone call boxes, post offices, police and fire stations**

In his 1947 questionnaire Bracey asked about these services in the following way:

'Which of the following are there; (a) PUBLIC TELEPHONE CALL BOX YES NO (b) POLICE STATION OR COTTAGE YES NO (c) POST OFFICE YES NO (d) FIRE STATION YES NO'

The coding scheme, mirroring that for the 1980 data, allowed instances of more than one phone box or post office to be recorded. Of these four services, only post offices were recorded in the 1950 survey, and while the results for the other three services refer to 1947, those for post offices refer to 1950.

In 1947, 82 per cent of all parishes in the study area had at least one phone box while about 18 per cent had none. There were no instances of parishes recording more than one phone box, although there could, of course, have been more than one kiosk in a parish where the reply was simply 'yes'. Crosstabulation of the information on phone boxes against 1951 parish population figures suggests that parishes with small populations were more likely to be without phone boxes than were those with larger populations (Table 3). The highest rate of phone box provision was in what is now Woodspring (Table 4) where 94.3 per cent of parishes responded positively to this question. A demand for additional phone boxes is illustrated by comments from Stratton on the Fosse. This parish had one kiosk, at the post office, but at least 5 extra phone boxes were recommended among the post war requirements.

Over 81 per cent of the parishes surveyed had a post office in 1950, and a further 2.7 per cent had more than one (Table 3). Of those parishes without a post office, 80 per cent had 1951 populations of 270 or less and only 22 per cent of the parishes with fewer than 90 people had a post office. No parish with fewer than 270 people had more than one post office in 1950, as far as it is possible to tell from the questionnaire returns.

At district level (Table 4) it is apparent that the south Avon districts were again well served, with 94 per cent of parishes in Woodspring and 83 per cent of those now in Wansdyke having at least one post office. In Woodspring, over 11 per cent of parishes recorded more than one. In the rest of the study area Mendip was the best served district, nearly 91 per cent of parishes having a post office. Worst served were Taunton Deane and Yeovil, but each of these still had a post office in about 80 per cent of parishes. The only Rural District in which all parishes had a post office was Dulverton, now part of West Somerset.

The distribution of parishes with post office and public telephone service as mapped by Bracey's team is shown in Map 4.

In 1947, 72 per cent of parishes had no police station or cottage. Of those parishes that did have a police station two thirds had 1951 population of 750 or more. Only one parish with a population of less than 270 had a police station. Nearly 70 per cent of parishes with populations of between 751 and 2050 and 85 per cent of those with over 2050 had a police presence. (See Table 3 and Map 5). Again the best served districts were those which are now in south Avon, but West Somerset was nearly as well served, with 30 per cent of parishes having this facility. Sedgemoor was least well served.

TABLE 3 PARISHES WITH PUBLIC TELEPHONES, POLICE STATIONS OR COTTAGES AND FIRE STATIONS  
IN 1947 AND POST OFFICES IN 1950, BY 1951 POPULATION

	Parish population size classes:										All parishes No. %
	1 - 90 No. %	91-270 No. %	271-750 No. %	751-2050 No. %	2051-5550 No. %						
Public phone box	3 33.3	75 61.5	138 91.4	75 100.0	19 95.0						310 82.2
One post office	2 22.0	81 66.4	138 92.0	70 92.1	16 80.0						307 81.4
More than one post office	- -	- -	2 1.3	5 6.6	3 15.0						10 2.7
Police station or cottage	- -	1 0.8	33 22.4	52 69.3	17 85.0						103 27.8
Fire station	- -	6 5.0	18 12.1	13 17.3	12 60.0						49 13.1

TABLE 4 PARISHES WITH PUBLIC TELEPHONES, POLICE STATIONS OR COTTAGES AND FIRE STATIONS  
IN 1947 AND POST OFFICES IN 1950, BY 1974 DISTRICT

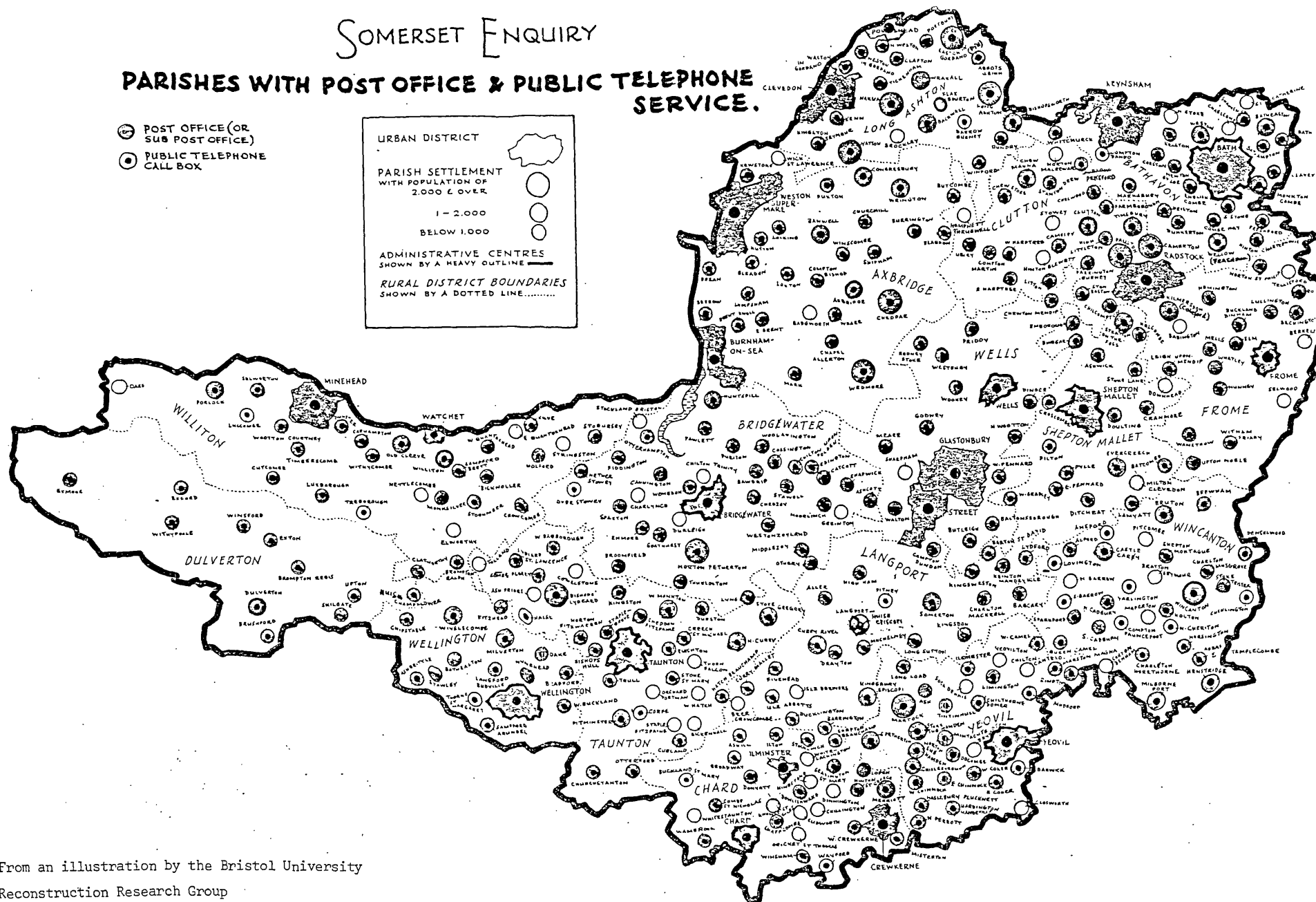
	Mendip		Sedgemoor		Taunton Deane		West Somerset		Yeovil		Wansdyke		Woodspring		All Responding Parishes	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Public phone box	47	87.0	42	84.0	34	73.9	33	82.5	85	77.3	36	85.7	33	94.3	310	82.2
One post office	49	90.7	43	86.0	36	78.3	30	76.9	87	78.4	33	78.6	29	82.9	307	81.4
More than one post office	-	-	1	2.0	1	2.2	1	2.6	1	0.9	2	4.8	4	11.4	10	2.7
Police station or cottage	15	27.8	12	24.0	12	26.1	12	30.0	26	25.0	13	31.0	13	37.1	103	27.8
Fire station	2	3.7	8	16.0	1	2.2	4	10.0	6	5.7	18	42.9	10	28.6	49	13.1

# SOMERSET ENQUIRY

## PARISHES WITH POST OFFICE & PUBLIC TELEPHONE SERVICE.

- ⊙ POST OFFICE (OR SUB POST OFFICE)
- ⊙ PUBLIC TELEPHONE CALL BOX

URBAN DISTRICT  
 PARISH SETTLEMENT WITH POPULATION OF 2,000 & OVER  
 1-2,000  
 BELOW 1,000  
 ADMINISTRATIVE CENTRES SHOWN BY A HEAVY OUTLINE  
 RURAL DISTRICT BOUNDARIES SHOWN BY A DOTTED LINE



From an illustration by the Bristol University  
 Reconstruction Research Group

# SOMERSET ENQUIRY

## PARISHES WITH POLICE & FIRE STATIONS



From an illustration by the Bristol University  
Reconstruction Research Group

TABLE 5 PERCENTAGE OF PARISHES WITHOUT PHONES, POST OFFICES, POLICE STATIONS AND FIRE STATIONS, BY DISTRICT (1974 BOUNDARIES)

District	No phone	No PO	No police station	No fire station
Mendip	13.0	11.1	72.2	96.3
Sedgemoor	16.0	14.0	76.0	84.0
Taunton Deane	26.1	21.7	73.9	97.8
West Somerset	17.5	20.0	70.0	90.0
Yeovil	22.7	22.0	75.0	95.2
Wansdyke	14.3	14.3	69.0	57.1
Woodspring	5.7	5.7	62.9	71.4
All parishes	17.8	15.7	72.2	86.8

Worst served district  
for each service

Districts with lowest percentages  
of poorly served parishes

Very few parishes had fire stations at the time of Bracey's first survey. Nearly 86 per cent responded negatively to this question. Although so few parishes in the study area had a fire station, however, variation by population size and district is still apparent. Table 4 shows that in Wansdyke 43 per cent of the parishes (a total of 18), had a fire station. Worst off was Taunton Deane where only one parish had one. Mendip and Yeovil were also poorly served, with respectively 4 per cent and 6 per cent of parishes having this facility.

Crosstabulations of these services with one another reveals, for example, that overall nearly 13 per cent of parishes had neither a post office nor a phone box but nearly 80 per cent had both. It was more common for a parish to have a post office but no phone (5.1 per cent) than to have a phone but no post office (2.9 per cent). Information for 1980 suggests the reverse. Table 5 illustrates the district variation.

To summarise, although rural parishes in Somerset were fairly well served by post offices and public telephone call boxes in 1947/50 about 80 per cent of parishes reporting both services, parishes with small populations were less likely to possess these services than were those which were well populated. Police stations and fire stations were much less numerous, and two thirds of the parishes were without either service. There was some variation by district, with the parts of the study area that are now south Avon being generally better served than elsewhere.

## 2. Shops

For the purposes of analysis, shops were recorded according to their number and type. The number of shops in each parish in 1950 was estimated using Bracey's 1950 questionnaires by simply counting the shops that had been separately recorded. Information on 'counters in other shops' was discounted except where it was useful in identifying a general store. Some of the services which Bracey recorded as shops were not included in this count but were reclassified. Blacksmiths were recorded as 'industries' and undertakers as 'professional services'. Laundries and coal order depots were included as shops where they occurred in particular parishes, but this information tended more often to refer to the location of depots for tradesmen providing a delivery service to the parishes. Garages, chemists, post offices, cafes and restaurants and 'premises with sign "teas"', recorded separately by Bracey, were included in the count of shops. The information on 'off licence premises (including grocers etc)' was more difficult to handle, as it was generally impossible to tell whether these were separate premises (unlikely in 1950) or part of public houses or shops. This information was therefore rarely included.

The coding scheme was as far as possible compatible with that for the 1980 questionnaires. However, in the case of post offices it was impossible to distinguish, from Bracey's information, post offices which were part of other shops. It is possible that post offices were more likely to be separated from general stores in 1950 than is the case now.

A particular problem arises in counting and classifying shops which supplied a range of goods and services, and several respondents had difficulty in reporting them. The respondent for South Petherton, for example, pointed out that it was difficult to tabulate all the commercial services since many of these were 'duplicated in the various shops'. Perhaps, the best illustration of the problem comes from Winsham, in Yeovil district, a parish which had five separate shops, described as follows:



The bigger grocery and provision shop also sells a little drapery, a little stationery, and few boots and shoes. The smaller grocer is the wife of the baker and confectioner and also sells drapery and hosiery. The second small baker also has a small grocery trade. The newsagent also deals in cars, cycles and radio sets - i.e. we fetch our own newspapers and periodicals from one of the local garages (there is no delivery). One of the general shops deals in hosiery, tobacco, sweets and mineral waters chiefly, while the other one is the one associated with the small bakery business.

Bracey's section on shops in 1950 included outlets which he had recorded separately as 'artisan services' in 1947. Examples are shoe repair shops and hairdressers. Others of the 1947 'artisan services' - household repairs, chimney sweeps, car, cycle and radio repairs, as well as the blacksmiths already mentioned - have been coded as 'industries' rather than shops.

At the first stage of coding the actual number of shops in a parish was recorded using a three digit number. However, in order to tabulate the results the numbers of shops have been grouped into several size classes.

Fewer than 10 per cent of the parishes reported no shops in 1950 (Table 6). One hundred and seventy nine (47.4 per cent of the total) had between 1 and 5 shops, and a total of nearly 70 per cent of parishes had between 1 and 10. Few parishes had between 11 and 30 shops, but 20 (5 per cent) had more than 30 and 8 had more than 50. The number of shops per parish is clearly related to parish population size. There was some variation by district, and Table 7 provides a summary of this.

There appeared to be 8 major shopping centres (Cheddar, Wedmore, Wiveliscombe, Porlock, Bruton, Castle Cary, Wincanton and Paulton) each with more than 50 shops. None of these largest centres is located in what is now Mendip district or in Woodspring. The results on shops as reported here differ somewhat from those given by Bracey (for example in Bracey 1962) where the maximum number of shops recorded in a parish was 44 (Paulton) and where the list of the 8 largest shopping centres, while broadly the same, includes, in addition, Yatton, Somerton and Dulverton and omits Wedmore, Porlock and Wincanton. While Wedmore and Porlock occur lower down Bracey's shopping hierarchy, Wincanton is not mentioned since Bracey regarded it as an urban service centre:

Wincanton alone among the villages listed had an index greater than 100 and enjoyed an intensive area where it reigned supreme as a service centre (1962 p.170).

These discrepancies are probably due mainly to the inclusion in the coded data set of shops (such as hairdressers and shoe repairers) providing services. Bracey omitted some of these from his count (as described in Bracey 1962), although it is not always possible to be certain, in the case of a particular parish, exactly which these were. Also, since the phrasing of Bracey's questions made it difficult to avoid instances of double counting it is possible that the number of shops may have been over-estimated at the coding stage.

Bracey's preliminary classification of Somerset's shopping centres is shown in Map 6. Note that this includes an indication of the number of shops per 1000 persons in the various grades of shopping centre - information which Bracey did not use in the publications arising from his study.

As far as types of shops found in each parish are concerned, the accuracy of the results is difficult to assess because of problems associated with coding this information. It was decided to record up to 20 shop and service types using a

TABLE 6 NUMBER OF SHOPS IN 1950, BY 1951 PARISH POPULATION

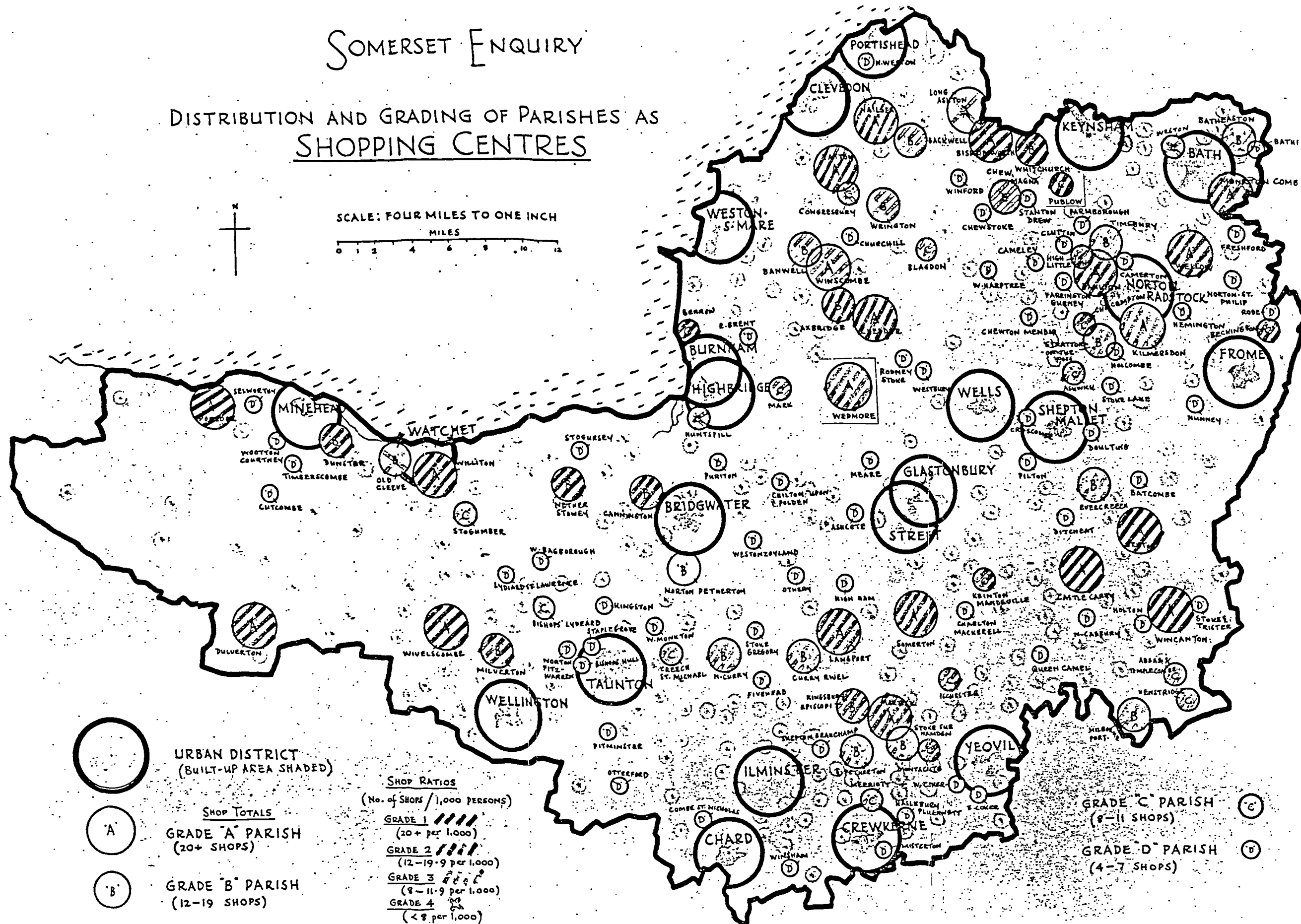
Number of shops:	Population size classes:										All Responding Parishes No. %
	1 - 90 No. %	91-270 No. %	271-750 No. %	751-2050 No. %	2051-5550 No. %						
None	6 66.7	27 22.1	2 1.3	1 1.3	-						36 9.5
1 - 5	3 33.3	91 74.6	75 49.7	9 11.8	1 5.0						179 47.4
6 - 10	-	4 3.3	59 39.1	21 27.6	1 5.0						85 22.5
11 - 15	-	-	11 7.3	8 10.5	1 5.0						20 5.3
16 - 20	-	-	4 2.6	10 13.2	1 5.0						15 4.0
21 - 25	-	-	-	9 11.8	3 15.0						12 3.2
26 - 30	-	-	-	9 11.8	2 10.0						11 2.9
31 - 50	-	-	-	5 6.5	7 35.0						12 3.3
> 50	-	-	-	4 5.3	4 20.0						8 2.1
All Parishes	9 2.4	122 32.3	151 39.9	76 20.1	20 5.3						378 100.0

TABLE 7 NUMBER OF SHOPS IN 1950, BY DISTRICT (1974 BOUNDARIES)

Number of shops:	Mendip		Sedgemoor		Taunton		Deane		West Somerset		Yeovil		Wansdyke		Woodspring		All Parishes	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
NONE	3	5.6	4	8.0	7	15.2	6	15.0	12	10.8	3	7.1	1	2.9	36	9.5		
1 - 5	23	42.6	20	40.0	24	52.2	15	37.5	63	56.8	18	42.9	16	45.7	179	47.4		
6 - 10	20	37.0	15	30.0	9	19.6	13	32.5	15	13.5	7	16.7	6	17.1	85	22.5		
11 - 15	4	7.4	4	8.0	2	4.3	1	2.5	5	4.5	3	7.1	1	2.9	20	5.3		
16 - 20	2	3.7	3	6.0	1	2.2	-	-	6	5.4	3	7.1	-	-	15	4.0		
21 - 25	1	1.9	1	2.0	2	4.3	-	-	2	1.8	2	4.8	4	11.4	12	3.2		
26 - 30	1	1.9	1	2.0	-	-	2	5.0	1	0.9	2	4.8	4	11.4	11	2.9		
31 - 50	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	5.0	4	3.6	3	7.2	3	8.7	12	3.2		
50	-	-	2	4.0	1	2.2	1	2.5	3	2.7	1	2.4	-	-	8	2.1		
All Parishes:	54	14.3	50	13.2	46	12.2	40	10.6	111	29.4	42	11.1	35	9.3	378	100.0		

# SOMERSET ENQUIRY

## DISTRIBUTION AND GRADING OF PARISHES AS SHOPPING CENTRES



From an illustration by the Bristol University  
Reconstruction Research Group

'multiple response' framework. Thus in parishes which had fewer than 20 shops the results are likely to have a high level of accuracy since each shop in the parish could be allocated a unique code. Fortunately a very high proportion of cases - nearly 89 per cent if the 9.5 per cent with no shops at all are included - fell in this category.

However, in parishes which had more than 20 shops (43 in all, or 11.5 per cent of those surveyed) only 20 could be individually recorded. The coding procedure adopted was to take one example of each shop type occurring in the parish and then to allocate further shops in any remaining spaces in proportion to the total number of shops of each type in the parish. For example, if there were twice as many general stores as bakers in the parish then general stores and bakers should have been recorded in the available spaces in the ratio 2:1. However, in the case of parishes with a full range of food shops (at least one of each type of the food stores shown on the coding scheme), and with numerous non-food shops and services in addition, the combination code for 'full range of food stores' was used and up to 19 non food shops and services were recorded in the remaining spaces, again recording shops of different types in proportion to their occurrences in the parish whenever more than 19 were present. The use of this fairly complex procedure meant that, although there were certain coding rules, decisions still had to be made about which shops to include, and this problem was exacerbated by difficulties in reading the replies, especially in parishes where shops were most numerous and respondents had been short of space in recording all the stores. In particular, there may be a systematic bias towards the recording of food stores, which appeared at the top of the coding scheme and also at the head of Bracey's 1950 question on shops, while services such as laundries appear later in both schemes. Only 2 laundries were in fact recorded, though it is heartening to note that hairdressers and garages, which also appeared towards the end of both lists, are both well represented (88 hairdressers and 109 garages were recorded).

An examination of the types of shops by district (Table 8) suggests a fairly wide spatial variation, although, again, the coding of separate districts by different clerical assistants could have introduced some systematic bias in these results. For example, the two laundries both occur in West Somerset, and Wansdyke is the only district to have dairies. Table 8 also shows that Woodspring, in particular, demonstrated a higher number of shops per parish than elsewhere, while Taunton Deane and Yeovil had relatively few. Taunton Deane parishes also appeared to have a poorer variety of shop types than elsewhere in the county.

Others of the results on shop types must be treated with caution. For example, only 13 chemists are listed in this question while 35 were recorded in the specific question on chemists' services, despite the intention, during coding, to record chemists twice, once as shops and once as health services so that checks could be made. In the case of post offices, which were also to be recorded twice, 317 parishes recorded at least one post office, while only 290 post offices were separately recorded as shops. However, it is probably that the 'missing' 27 post offices are recorded under the 'full range food' category, which applies to 35 parishes.

While the amount of detail and the accuracy of the information on shop types are limited it is nevertheless possible to make a number of observations. Firstly, in the 342 parishes for which valid responses to this question are available (missing values having been excluded from the calculations) the most frequent shop type to occur was the grocer/general store, representing just over a third of the responses (Table 9). The second most frequently cited shop type was the post office (15 per cent of the 1,969 responses, although as we have noted above this may be a slight under-representation), followed by the cafe (7.3 per cent). Bakers, shoe repair shops and garages were also numerous.

TABLE 8 SHOP TYPES 1950, BY DISTRICT (1974 BOUNDARIES)

No. of parishes	Mendip (51)	Sedgemoor (46)	Taunton Deane (39)	West Somerset (34)	Yeovil (99)	Wansdyke (39)	Woodspring (34)	All Parishes (342)
Shop types:								
Grocer/general store	122	92	81	48	156	69	84	652
Post Office	51	45	35	28	72	30	29	290
Cafe	16	38	12	21	16	15	26	144
Shoe/shoe repair	19	11	6	14	29	18	20	117
Garage	38	26	2	25	1	16	1	109
Baker	19	25	12	6	21	8	8	99
Butcher	16	21	12	4	16	16	7	92
Hairdresser	20	12	3	15	13	18	7	88
Haberdasher/wool/tailor	13	5	4	22	5	17	11	77
Confectioner/news/ tobacco	11	10	4	18	7	12	13	75
Hardware	6	6	-	8	6	5	10	41
Electrical	5	6	1	5	5	2	4	28
Fruit & vegetables	2	3	1	1	5	5	7	24
Fishmonger	3	4	-	-	1	3	3	14
Chemist	2	3	-	3	-	2	3	13
Dairy	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	6
Household	1	-	-	1	1	1	2	6
Clothing	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2
Laundry	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2
Garden/nursery	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	2
Other food shop	1	-	-	-	2	2	3	8
Other non food shop	8	6	5	7	7	8	3	44
Full range of food shops	-	1	3	5	15	6	5	35
Total shops separately recorded:	354	315	181	235	379	259	246	1969
Shops separately recorded per parish:	6.9	6.8	4.6	6.9	3.8	6.6	7.2	5.8

TABLE 9 TYPES OF SHOPS 1950

	Number	Percent of responses	Shops per parish
Grocer/general store	652	33.1	1.91
Post Office	290	14.7	0.85
Cafe	144	7.3	0.42
Shoes/shoe repair	117	5.9	0.34
Garage	109	5.5	0.32
Baker	99	5.0	0.29
Butcher	92	4.7	0.27
Hairdresser	88	4.5	0.26
Haberdasher/wool/tailors	77	3.9	0.23
Confectioner/news/tocacco	75	3.8	0.22
Hardware	41	2.1	0.12
Electrical	28	1.4	0.08
Fruit & vegetables	24	1.2	0.07
Fishmonger	14	0.7	0.04
Chemist	13	0.7	0.04
Dairy	6	0.3	0.02
Household	6	0.3	0.02
Clothing	2	0.1	0.01
Laundry	2	0.1	0.01
Garden/nursery	2	0.1	0.01
Other food shop	8	0.4	0.02
Other non food shop	44	2.2	0.13
Full range food shops	35	1.8	-
All shops	1	0.1	-
Total responses	1969	100.0	5.66

342 valid cases

TABLE 10 SHOP TYPES 1950, BY PARISH POPULATION 1951

No. of responding parishes:	1 - 90 (3)	91-270 (95)	271-750 (149)	751-2050 (75)	2051-5550 (20)	All Parishes (342)
Grocer/general store	1	89	325	205	32	652
Post Office	2	81	141	59	7	290
Cafe	1	13	76	49	5	144
Shoes/shoe repair	-	16	48	47	6	117
Garage	-	8	50	46	5	109
Baker	-	7	45	38	9	99
Butcher	-	3	44	33	12	92
Hairdresser	-	6	39	36	7	88
Haberdasher/wool/tailor	-	7	23	41	6	77
Confectioner/news/tobacco	-	11	27	31	6	75
Hardware	-	1	19	18	3	41
Electrical	-	1	10	14	3	28
Fruit & vegetables	-	-	8	11	5	24
Fishmonger	-	-	7	4	3	14
Chemist	-	-	1	9	3	13
Dairy	-	-	2	3	1	6
Household	-	-	1	2	3	6
Clothing	-	-	1	1	-	2
Laundry	-	1	-	1	-	2
Garden/nursery	-	1	1	-	-	2
Other food shop	-	1	2	5	-	8
Other non food shop	-	3	14	21	6	44
Full range of food shops	-	-	1	23	11	35
All shops	-	-	-	-	1	1
Total shops separately recorded:	5	249	884	697	134	1969
Shops separately recoded per parish:	1.7	2.6	5.9	9.3	6.7	5.8



Most striking is the preponderance of food shops. While grocer/general stores made up a third of the total responses, a further 12.3 per cent were other food shops, mainly bakers and butchers but also fishmongers, dairies and fruit and vegetable merchants. Adding to these the parishes which were said to have a full range of food shops or to possess at least one of all the shop types recorded, a total of 931 responses (47 per cent) referred to food shops. Non food shops - confectioners, newsagents and tobacconists, clothing, chemists, hardware, electrical and household goods stores - accounted for only 12.3 per cent of responses, but services - cafes, garages, hairdressers, shoe repairers and laundries - accounted for a further 23.3 per cent.

Table 8 also shows the numbers of each type of shop per parish. Typically, each had between 5 and 6 (5.66) types, including around one (0.85) post office, but nearer two (1.9) grocer/general stores.

Examination of the types of shops by parish population (Table 10) shows firstly that of those parishes with fewer than 90 persons in 1951 only 4 shop types were represented - 2 post offices, a general store and a cafe. Post offices, grocer/general stores and other food stores mostly occurred in parishes with populations of between 271 and 750 while, as might be expected, the more specialised non-food stores tended to cluster in larger numbers in the parishes with populations in the range 751 to 2050. Electrical stores, haberdashery/wool/tailors and other non-food shops were all concentrated in this group. Also, parishes in the largest population size group tended to have more shops per parish than those lower down the hierarchy. (The figure of 6.7 for parishes in the largest population size group, a fall compared with those of population size 751-2050, with 9.3 shops per parish, is no doubt a reflection of the reporting of a 'full range of food shops' rather than individual outlets in these largest places).

### **3. Tradesmen delivering to the rural parishes**

Information on tradesmen delivering to the parishes of Somerset was collected by Bracey in his 1950 survey. Alongside the name of each shop or service (grocery, meat etc) he asked respondents to record the 'Tradesmen delivering these commodities at least once a week from other towns and parishes', asking specifically for the number of tradesmen and the place from which the goods were delivered. Note that Bracey excluded milkmen from the survey, and also that deliveries which might have occurred less frequently than every week were also omitted.

Unfortunately many of the respondents appear not to have understood this question and it has been difficult to decipher the replies. First the number of travelling shops and delivery services to each parish was recorded. (In general mobile shops cannot be distinguished from deliveries and as Bracey asked for 'deliveries' it is likely that the great majority of the replies refer to these rather than to mobile shops. This is not the case with the 1980 survey information).

The number of delivery services was deduced from Bracey's information without a great deal of difficulty. However, the coders were then asked to record, for up to 10 tradesmen in each parish, the type of service together with the tradesmen's place of origin using a multiple response framework similar to that used in the question on shops. In the case of parishes with more than 10 tradesmen, what were judged to be 10 representative examples of deliveries to the parish in question were recorded, so that at least one example of a service and one of each place serving that parish occurred. As in the case of shops, there is likely to have been

TABLE 11 NUMBERS OF TRADESMEN DELIVERING 1950

	Number of Parishes	Percent (adjusted)
NONE	2	0.5
1 - 5	24	6.5
6 - 10	124	33.7
11 - 15	125	34.0
16 - 20	71	19.3
21 - 25	16	4.3
26 - 30	6	1.6
No Data	1	-
DK	9	-
Total	378	100.0

TABLE 12 TYPES OF TRADESMEN DELIVERING 1950

	Number	Per cent of responses	Tradesmen per parish
Grocer	783	23.5	2.12
Baker	673	20.5	1.82
Meat	666	20.0	1.80
Wet fish	343	10.3	0.93
Coal	224	6.7	0.61
Laundry	217	6.5	0.59
Papers	165	4.9	0.45
Fruit & vegetables	100	3.0	0.27
Fish and chips	101	3.0	0.27
Grocer, fruit, & vegetables	32	1.0	0.09
Fish, fruit & vegetables	8	0.2	0.02
Ironmonger/paraffin/gas	7	0.2	0.02
Baker, fruit & vegetables	4	0.1	0.01
Baker, meat & fish	2	0.1	0.01
Baker & grocer	5	0.1	0.01
Grocer, meat & fish	3	0.1	0.01
Other non food	4	0.1	0.01
Other food	1	0.0	0.00
Total responses	3338	100.0	9.02
370 valid cases			

some coding bias towards food deliveries and there may also be some variation by district.

However, as the basic information collected by Bracey must be regarded as suspect, largely because of the very confused nature of the replies, an attempt at more detailed coding was not thought to be worthwhile in terms of the greater amount of computer space that would have been required, together with the very time consuming nature of the task.

With hindsight, it might have been preferable to have included data for up to 15 tradesmen rather than 10 since about 58 per cent of the parishes had more than 10 tradesmen, including a third of the parishes with between 11 and 15. Thus the results of the analysis of delivery services must be regarded as being of only limited value.

In 1950 only two parishes - Staplegrave in Taunton Deane and Wick St Lawrence in Woodspring - had no deliveries, although there were 10 parishes for which information was missing. About two thirds of the parishes for which information was available had between 6 and 15 tradesmen delivering, and about a quarter had more than 16 (Table 11). Information on the tradesmen's places of origin is primarily intended to be used in mapping and has not been considered here.

Examination of the numbers of tradesmen by parish population (not tabulated) suggests that the very smallest and largest parishes, in population terms, tended to have fewer visiting tradesmen than did the medium sized parishes.

In 370 of the 378 cases there is some record of the goods and services provided by up to 10 tradesmen delivering to the parish (Table 12). Typically each parish was visited by about 9 tradesmen. By far the most frequently cited service was the grocer, with 23.5 per cent of the 3338 responses, closely followed by the baker and butcher, each with about 20 per cent of the replies. On average there were about 2 bakers, grocers and butchers per parish. Just over 10 per cent of the responses referred to deliveries of fresh fish. Less common were the mixed fresh goods salesmen, for example the baker selling fruit and vegetables or the grocer selling fresh meat and fish. The 6 'mixed food' categories together accounted for only 1.6 per cent of the responses. There were also relatively few deliveries of ironmongery, paraffin and other non food items (0.3 per cent of the responses), but this may reflect the fact that Bracey was concerned only with deliveries which were made at least once a week. Non food goods typically tend to be delivered less frequently than fresh goods. However, there were numerous instances of deliveries of newspapers, coal and laundry. Over 18 per cent of the responses were accounted for by these three delivery types.

While parishes of all population sizes recorded deliveries of fresh foods (bread, groceries, fruit and vegetables, meat, fish and fish and chips), and of papers, coal and laundry, the medium sized parishes had a wider range of deliveries. Examination of delivery type by district shows that all districts recorded numerous deliveries of bread, groceries, meat, fish, fish and chips, papers, coal and laundry. Ironmongery, paraffin and gas salesmen, and those selling 'other non-food' items were particularly scarce, and none were recorded in parishes which are now in Mendip, Sedgemoor or West Somerset, while Taunton Deane had only one parish with a visiting ironmonger.

Deliveries occurred even in the very largest shopping centres. Of the parishes without shops, over half (51.4 per cent) had between 6 and 10 tradesmen visiting and over three quarters (77 per cent) had between 6 and 15, although none had more than 20. An example is Alford, in Yeovil district, which had no shops but which was said to be 'very well served commercially, all commodities being

brought to the village'. Only two parishes had no deliveries at all, and only one had no shops and no deliveries. Examination of the types of deliveries by the number of shops in each parish suggests that in parishes with no shops, and in those with between 1 and 5 shops, deliveries of fresh foods and of papers, coal and laundry were especially numerous.

Despite reservations about the quality of the information on tradesmen delivering to the parishes of Somerset, it can be said with confidence that most of the parishes, even those with small populations and few shops, were well served by travelling services, although it was unusual to find parishes which had more than 20 visiting tradesmen. Nearly all the parishes had deliveries of a wide variety of groceries and fresh foods, together with papers, coal and laundry. However, these were most often supplied by specialist salesmen - for example, the butcher or greengrocer - and it was unusual to find salesmen selling a mixture of goods. Variation by district was not especially marked and may be due to slightly variable actions on the part of the coders.

#### **4. Professional Services**

Bracey asked about professional services in both the 1947 and 1950 surveys, although in neither case did they appear as a distinct category in his questionnaire. For each professional service it was decided to record the number in each parish in 1950 and to omit, for the moment, information on other places visited for a particular service. Medical services, included as 'professional and similar services' by Bracey, have been separately analysed. Also, Bracey asked about undertakers in his 1950 section on shops. These have been reclassified as 'other professional services' to achieve comparability with the 1980 data.

##### **4.1 Banks**

Nearly 89 per cent of parishes had no bank in 1950 (Table 13). No parish with fewer than 270 people, and only 4.6 per cent of those with 271-750 had one. More populous parishes seemed more likely to have more than one bank than to have just one. Overall, over half of those parishes that did have banks had more than one.

##### **4.2 Accountants**

Accountants were even less common than banks. Over ninety six per cent of parishes had no accountant. Of the 12 parishes that did have one, 4 had more than one. Again, parishes with small populations were unlikely to have this professional service, and only one parish with a population of less than 270 had one. No accountants were located in present day Sedgemoor, and there was only one in Wansdyke.

##### **4.3 Solicitors**

Only 21 parishes (5.6 per cent) had a solicitor in 1950, and over a third of these had two or three, giving a total of 30 solicitors in the study area. None of these was recorded in a parish with fewer than 270 people, and only one in a parish with a population of less than 750. The rural parishes of Mendip district had no solicitors at all.

##### **4.4 Estate agents and auctioneers**

Only 17 parishes (5.5 per cent of the total) had an estate agent or auctioneer in 1950. One parish having an estate agent also had a population of less than 270

TABLE 13 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES IN 1950, BY 1951 PARISH POPULATION

At least one:	1 - 90	91-270	271-750	751-2050	2051-5550	All Parishes
	No. %	No. %	No. %	No. %	No. %	No. %
Bank	-	-	7 4.6	22 29.0	14 70.0	43 11.4
Accountant	-	1 0.8	1 0.7	7 9.1	3 15.0	12 3.2
Solicitor	-	-	1 0.7	9 11.8	11 55.0	21 5.6
Estate Agent	-	1 0.8	1 0.7	9 11.8	6 30.0	17 4.5
Vet	-	1 0.8	3 2.0	8 10.2	5 25.0	17 4.5
Other Professional service	-	12 9.8	54 35.8	46 60.5	15 75.0	127 33.6
All Parishes	9 2.4	122 32.3	151 39.9	76 20.1	20 5.3	378 100.0

(Fitzhead), but again it was generally the case that the few examples of this professional service to be found in the study area were only in evidence in the most populous parishes. Parishes with an estate agent rarely had more than one, unlike those with banks, accountants or solicitors. Mendip was again the worst served district, with no estate agents at all. Of those parishes with an estate agent or auctioneer, 12 (just over 70 per cent) also had at least one bank.

#### **4.5 Veterinary surgeons**

Surprisingly, perhaps, only 15 parishes reported one vet in 1950, and two parishes reported 2, so that only 4.5 per cent of parishes had at least one vet. Parishes with vets were scattered over the whole study area. Sedgemoor, with 5, was the best served district. In all districts, parishes with small populations were unlikely to have resident vets.

#### **4.6 Other professional services**

The category 'other professional services' generally refers to undertakers. Here a much higher proportion of parishes in the study area had at least one. Just over a quarter of parishes had one 'other professional service' and nearly one third had one or more than one. In this case the relationship with parish population seems less well marked with several parishes in the category 91-270 persons having at least one 'other professional service', although none of the very smallest parishes, in population terms, reported one.

Best served district appeared to be Wansdyke, where nearly 43 per cent of parishes had at least one, and worst off was Mendip where only 26.4 per cent of parishes had at least one.

#### **4.7 Full or part time professional services**

Bracey's 1947 questionnaire included a question about the number of days a week on which a particular professional service operated and, where available, this information has been used to judge whether a service was full or part time in an effort to achieve some comparability with the 1980 information. It was also hoped that this information might give some indication of the incidence of mobile or peripatetic professional services.

There was no information of this type for banks or accountants since Bracey did not ask about these in his 1947 survey and for the other professional services the data are extremely patchy. Of the 17 vets recorded, information on the frequency of the service was available for only 10, and only 2 of these were part time. Ashcott and Cheddar, both in Sedgemoor district, both reported a veterinary surgery on one day a week, possibly on market day.

In the case of solicitors, where information on whether the service was full or part time was available for 10 of the 21 instances recorded, only one was part time, like the vet calling one day a week at Cheddar. Of the 17 parishes reporting an estate agent or auctioneer, information as to frequency was available for 13, three of which were said to be part time. These were found at Cheddar, Sparkford (Yeovil district) and Winford (Woodspring) and in each case the service was an auctioneer calling each market day. These three services - vets, solicitors and estate agents or auctioneers - provide some slight evidence of peripatetic professional services at the time of Bracey's surveys.

'Other professional services', overwhelmingly undertakers, showed quite a different trend. Here a part time service was not mobile but occurred when the undertaker had another occupation. For example, in Ruishton (Taunton Deane

district) the undertaker was also a blacksmith and wheelwright, while in Hinton Charterhouse (Wansdyke) the undertaker was also a builder. In Durston (Taunton Deane) the respondent said that 'a carpenter in the village is also an undertaker like his father before him'.

#### **4.8 The pattern of professional services**

Crosstabulations of banks, accountants, estate agents and auctioneers and 'other professional services' (although not vets) with shops, not reproduced here, confirm the expectation that parishes with larger numbers of shops were in general more likely to have professional services than were parishes with few shops. For example, all parishes with more than 50 shops, and nearly three quarters of those with between 20 and 50, had at least one bank, and more usually 2 or 3, and only one had no solicitor. This finding is in line with Bracey's observations on the links between shops and professional services in First and Second order central villages (Bracey 1962). However, in the case of 'other professional services' the numbers of shops appear to have been less significant. Of the 215 parishes with 5 shops or less, 30 (14 per cent) reported some 'other professional service'.

Overall, 74 per cent of the parishes with banks, 75 per cent of those with accountants, 82 per cent of those with estate agents/auctioneers and 95 per cent of those with solicitors had more than 20 shops. On the other hand, only about 27 per cent of parishes with 'other professional services' had more than 20 shops.

To summarise, very few rural parishes had professional services in 1950 and it is difficult to make generalisations because of the small number of services involved. Banks and 'other professional services' (mainly undertakers) tended to be more numerous than accountants, solicitors, estate agents/auctioneers or vets. There seemed to be a tendency for parishes with one professional service to have at least one or another. Although the information on the frequency of these services has generally been discounted because of the high percentage of cases of these variables reported as missing, what information there is suggests that services were overwhelmingly full time rather than part time. It is difficult to discern any variation by district, but it is probably true to say that those parishes which are now in Mendip district were relatively poorly off for professional services in 1950. In most cases it seems that professional services were located in the larger shopping centres.

#### **5. Health services**

In his 1947 questionnaire Bracey asked about health services in each parish as part of the question 'Professional and similar services'. The 1950 survey was slightly different in that, firstly, Bracey asked for the number of doctors with a surgery in the parish rather than simply for the presence or absence of a surgery, together with the names of up to four places from which doctors visited the parish. In 1950 he did not ask on how many days the service was provided. For dentists, opticians, dispensing chemists and nurses he asked for the number in the parish in 1950 together with the names of up to three 'other towns and parishes commonly visited for these services'. The information on places visited has not so far been examined.

The question on hospitals, in particular, yielded quite different information for the two survey years. The 1947 questionnaire did not ask whether or not there was a hospital in the parish but which hospital was 'usually used', presumably by the majority of residents of the parish. Answers to this question tended to name particular establishments. The 1950 survey, in contrast, provides the names of towns or villages in which the hospitals were located, together with the number of



hospitals in each parish. In coding the information on hospitals an attempt was made to retain both types of information, although the names of other towns and villages visited were omitted at this stage.

The 1950 survey gave information on the presence or absence of a hospital, and where there was a hospital in the parish the 1947 survey was helpful in establishing whether or not that hospital was 'usually used' or whether it was some other type of establishment such as a home for the mentally handicapped.

In the case of hospitals, both the 1947 and 1950 questionnaires have been used to generate the coded replies. Questions on child welfare clinics, in contrast, were confined to the 1947 survey and more than one respondent queried their omission from the 1950 form. For the other health services the information for their presence or absence refers to 1950. However detail on whether the various health services were full or part time comes from the 1947 questionnaire. In recording whether the health services were full or part time, doctors, dentists, chemists and opticians have been treated in the same way as professional services, discussed earlier, although data on the frequency of health services are much more readily available than was the case for professional services. Further, the information has been recorded in such a way as to be compatible with data generated in the 1980 survey. However, Bracey's scheme for recording the frequency of child welfare clinics was not very appropriate as clinics were typically held much less frequently than on several days a week, and the coding scheme adopted was the same as that for clinics in the 1980 survey, with codes for 'daily', 'weekly or more often', 'fortnightly' and 'monthly or less often'.

It was decided not to make use of the information on district nurses and no questions were asked about them in the 1980 survey. (This service is available to all residents on the recommendation of a general practitioner). However, with hindsight it might have been valuable to include the district nurses in the analysis as they perhaps represented an important source of local medical help in many of the parishes without other health services. Indeed, a number of Bracey's contacts remarked that this was the case. In Bickenhall, for example, the respondent commented that the 'district nurse (a very efficient one) attends to all needs in the village and lives in the next village and is on the phone'. In general the telephone was seen as an important link between the rural parishes and the various health services. As the respondent for Godney remarked, 'The telephone is of course a great boon as doctors, nurses and veterinary surgeons can often be obtained in about a quarter of an hour'.

## **5.1 Doctors**

In 1950, 121 parishes (32 per cent of those in the study area) had a doctors surgery, while 257 (68 per cent) did not (Table 14). Information on the frequency of doctors surgeries suggests that about 60 per cent were full time, that is they were held on 6 or 7 days a week. Typically, parishes with part time doctors surgeries had surgeries held on 1, 2, or 3 days a week by up to 3 doctors visiting from nearby towns or from the better served rural parishes. For example, rural parishes of Mendip were served by doctors from Street, Glastonbury, Wells, Frome and Shepton Mallet, and those of West Somerset by doctors from Porlock, Minehead, Dulverton, Williton and Nether Stowey.

Only 6 parishes with a 1951 population of 270 or less had a doctors surgery in 1947/50, usually a part time rather than a full time service, and no parishes with fewer than 90 people had one. Parishes with larger populations tended to have a better chance of having a surgery, (for example, a parish in the population size group 2051 to 5550 had a 4 to 1 chance of having one), while parishes with larger

TABLE 14 HEALTH SERVICES IN 1950, BY 1951 PARISH POPULATION

At least one:	1 - 90 No.	%	91-270 No.	%	271-750 No.	%	751-2050 No.	%	2051-5550 No.	%	All Parishes No.	%
Doctor's surgery	-	-	6	4.9	51	33.8	48	63.2	16	80.0	121	32.0
Dentist	-	-	-	-	3	2.0	18	23.7	12	60.0	33	8.7
Chemist	-	-	-	-	2	1.3	19	25.0	14	70.0	35	9.3
Optician	-	-	-	-	1	0.7	3	3.9	6	31.6	10	2.7
Child Welfare Clinic	-	-	3	2.5	19	12.7	29	38.7	12	60.0	63	16.8
Hospital	-	-	-	-	2	1.3	-	-	2	10.0	4	1.1
All Parishes	9	2.4	122	32.3	151	39.9	76	20.1	20	5.3	378	100.0

populations were also more likely to have a full time than a part time service. All districts had fewer parishes with surgeries than without (Table 15).

## **5.2 Dentists**

Only 33 parishes (8.7 per cent) had a dentist in 1950. The 1947 data on the frequency of dental surgeries suggests that most of these (about 64 per cent) were part time, while 11 (33.3 per cent) were full time. One dentist was reported as operating a service that was at least partly mobile. Part time dental surgeries were held less frequently than part time doctors surgeries, usually on 1 day a week, and there was generally less choice of dentist since in most case only one dentist was available. Blagdon, for example, had a visit once a week from a dentist based in Bristol. However, some parishes, such as Holcombe and Evercreech in Mendip, had a part time dental service on 2 days a week. In Holcombe there were '2 peripatetic dentists, each once weekly in private houses'.

Parishes with larger populations were slightly more likely to have dentists than less populous places (Table 15) and more likely to have a full time rather than a part time service, but it was still the case that less than a quarter of those parishes with between 751 and 2050 people had a dentist, and only the very largest parishes, in population terms, were more likely to have one than not. Best served district appeared to be Woodspring, where nearly 23 per cent of parishes had a dentist compared with 8.7 per cent of all the parishes in the study area. Worst served was Sedgemoor where only one rural parish, Cheddar, reported one.

## **5.3 Dispensing chemists**

Chemists have already been mentioned in section 3 under Shops, but the specialised question on dispensing chemists appears to give more accurate information. Again, the vast majority of parishes (90.7 per cent) had no chemist in 1950 (Table 15). Of the 35 that did have one, 28 (80 per cent) provided a service at least 6 days a week, one was part time and in 5 cases no information was available. No parishes had a chemist but no doctor. A quarter of parishes with between 750 and 2050 people, and 70 per cent of those with more than 2050, had a chemist in 1950. At district level (Table 16) Woodspring was again the best served, nearly 23 per cent of parishes there having a chemist, while Taunton Deane, where only Wivelscombe reported this service, was worst off.

## **5.4 Opticians**

Opticians were scarce in 1950. Over 97 per cent of the rural parishes of Somerset had none. In the 10 parishes that did have an optician, (Cheddar, Wedmore, Dulverton, Castle Cary, Langport, Queen Camel, South Petherton, Wincanton, Long Ashton and Yatton) at least 7 reported that the service was full time and 2 that it was part time; of these one visited South Petherton and one Wincanton, in both cases calling once a week. Only one of the opticians was located in a parish with a population smaller than 750, and 68 per cent of even the most populous parishes had no optician's service.

As there were so few study parishes with opticians it is difficult to detect any variation by district. However, Table 15 shows that in the rural parishes of Mendip, Taunton Deane and Wansdyke there were no opticians at all. In percentage terms, Woodspring was the best served district.

## **5.5 Child welfare clinics**

Although clinics were relatively frequent in 1947 in comparison with dentists, chemists and opticians, only about 17 per cent of parishes - a total of 63 -

TABLE 15 PARISHES WITH VARIOUS HEALTH SERVICES IN 1950, BY 1974 DISTRICT

	Mendip		Sedgemoor		Taunton Deane		West Somerset		Yeovil		Wansdyke		Woodspring		All Responding Parishes	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Doctors surgery	22	40.7	18	36.0	9	19.6	18	45.0	24	21.6	16	38.1	14	40.0	121	32.0
Dentists	3	5.6	1	2.0	2	4.3	2	5.0	12	10.8	5	11.9	8	22.9	33	8.7
Chemists	2	3.7	5	10.0	1	2.2	4	10.0	11	9.9	4	9.5	8	22.9	35	9.3
Opticians	-	-	2	4.0	-	-	1	2.5	5	4.5	-	-	2	5.7	10	2.7
Child welfare clinics	14	25.9	5	10.2	4	8.7	3	7.5	9	8.2	16	38.1	12	34.3	63	16.8
Hospitals	1	1.9	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	0.9	2	4.8	-	-	4	1.1

TABLE 16 PERCENTAGE OF PARISHES WITHOUT CERTAIN HEALTH FACILITIES IN 1947/50,  
BY DISTRICT (1974 BOUNDARIES)

District	No doctor	No dentist	No optician	No chemist	No clinic	No doctor No clinic	No chemist No clinic
Mendip	59.3	94.4	100.0	96.3	74.1	51.9	74.1
Sedgemoor	64.0	98.0	96.0	90.0	89.8	61.2	81.6
Taunton Deane	80.4	95.7	100.0	97.8	91.3	76.1	91.3
West Somerset	55.0	95.0	97.5	90.0	92.5	55.0	85.0
Yeovil	78.4	89.2	95.5	90.1	91.8	76.4	86.4
Wansdyke	61.9	88.1	100.0	90.5	61.9	45.2	59.5
Woodspring	60.0	77.1	94.3	77.1	65.7	48.6	62.9
All study area	68.0	91.3	97.1	90.7	82.8	62.5	79.2

Worst served district for each  
service or pair of services

Districts with lowest percentages  
of poorly served parishes

reported them. There is little information as to what organisations ran the clinics although at Ditchet (in Mendip) at least the clinic was 'run by the Commandant of the Red Cross' and 'used for the distribution of orange juice, cod liver oil etc'.

Information on the frequency with which clinics were held is available for 45 cases. Of these, over half were held monthly or less often, 13 (29 per cent) were held fortnightly and only 8 (18 per cent) weekly.

There was a greater tendency for the clinics to be present in parishes with relatively small populations than was the case for the health services considered so far (Table 15). It was also the case that parishes with larger populations appeared to have more frequent clinics than those with small populations.

Table 15 summarises the distribution of clinics by district in 1947. Wansdyke and Woodspring appear to have been the best served, with about 38 per cent and 34 per cent of parishes, respectively, having a child welfare clinic. Furthermore, two thirds of the clinics in Woodspring for which frequency data are available were held weekly or fortnightly. Worst served appeared to be West Somerset, with only 7.5 per cent of parishes reporting a clinic. Information on the frequency of clinics is available for only one parish in West Somerset, Dulverton, and this reported that the clinic was held monthly or less often.

## **5.6 Hospitals**

It seems that only four rural parishes of Somerset had hospitals in 1947/50, nearly 99 per cent of parishes being without one. The hospitals reported are those at Butleigh (Mendip), Corston and Paulton (Wansdyke) and Wincanton (Yeovil).

## **5.7 Health services : summary**

While almost a third of parishes had doctors surgeries in 1950, most of them providing a service on 6 or 7 days a week, the majority did not. Other health services were comparatively scarce, although clinics were more numerous than dentists, opticians, chemists or hospitals, particularly in the less well populated parishes. In general, those parishes with doctors were better off in terms of other health services than those without doctors. In fact a listing of health services by parish (as in Appendix 11) shows that the largest rural centres such as Cheddar, Wiveliscombe, Dulverton, Williton, Castle Cary, Langport, Somerton, South Petherton, Wincanton, Long Ashton and Yatton often had a full range of health services.

Table 16 indicates the percentage of parishes without certain health facilities in each of the seven study area districts. In general, those parts of the study area which are now part of Avon did better than elsewhere as far as health facilities are concerned, while Taunton Deane did particularly badly in some respects.

## **6. Public Transport**

In both his 1947 and 1950 surveys Bracey asked a number of questions about 'bus and rail transport, and in his 1947 questionnaire he also asked about car hire and for details of any special local transport arrangements for market days or Saturdays.

He was concerned with ease of access to the nearest town (in fact to up to three towns or parishes in the 1950 survey), particularly for work, shopping trips and recreation. It should be noted that although the information supplied gives an indication of the availability of public transport for a particular parish, Bracey's

questions were not phrased in such a way as to limit the responses to transport facilities available within parish boundaries. For example, he asked simply for the nearest bus stop and railway station, and about services available from these stops and stations to the 'nearest town'. The services described are not assumed to be located within the parish to which they refer. The respondent for Milton Clevedon made the following comment which perhaps illustrates this point:

I am glad to notice that you ask for the nearest bus stop. One parishioner in Langport parish was asked on a form he had to fill up in applying for petrol where the nearest tram stop is. The answer to that is, I think, Southampton.

Milton Clevedon, incidentally, had 'no transport whatsoever'. It is possible that some bus stops, and more probably some stations, served more than one parish. (Milton Clevedon was served by the stop in Evercreech, one and a half miles away). Furthermore, the questions are phrased in such a way as to apply to villages rather than to parishes. Detailed problems concerning these and other observations about the questions and their interpretation are described in the following sections.

When coding the information it was generally found that the 1947 form provided the most useful and complete summary of public transport availability for each parish, although as far as the numbers of buses and trains a day were concerned the 1950 data were often more easily interpreted. The name of the nearest town and distance to it (F1) have not yet been examined, thus by-passing the problem of assessing just how accurate were the respondents in their ability to estimate distances from town to parish, together with the even more difficult problem of to what point in the parish or town this measurement applied. Question F5 and F6, on the early morning buses and trains and the time of the last bus leaving the town, were omitted from the coding although an answer to these questions was sometimes of help in reaching a decision as to the availability of transport services in general. The other pieces of information were retained but extracted in such a way as to fit into the coding scheme shown in Appendix 5.

### 6.1 Nearest bus stop 1947

Bracey posed the question 'How far is the nearest bus stop?'. In the absence of any better way of interpreting the information generated by this question it has been assumed that the response in each case refers to the distance to the bus stop from the main centre of population in each parish, always assuming also that there was only one such centre and that the respondent estimated the distance to the stop from this centre and not, for example, from his or her place of residence. Whether the distance given referred to, for example, road distance or to distance 'as the crow flies' is unknown. Also, there was no guidance at all for the respondents whose parishes or villages contained more than one bus stop as to which one they should choose.

The difficulties in answering and then interpreting this question are particularly apparent from an examination of the 22 cases reported as missing, although there were also frequent comments from places which did provide codable information.

The respondent for Claverton parish, for example, reported that the nearest bus stop was 'close' and that the number of buses each way 'varies for different sectors' of the parish. She went on to explain that:

The parish of Claverton is large in area, and scattered, in so far that there are 3 separate sectors or hamlets. These comprise the village (Claverton) situated in the Avon Valley on the main Bath-Warminster Road. One and a half miles to the North and situated on the Down, overlooking Bath, is the Wansdyke area of Claverton Down and 1 mile to the SE is the Flatwoods area of Claverton Down (overlooking the Mendips). Amenities enjoyed by one hamlet are therefore not necessary (sic) available to the others.

In the parish of Compton Martin there were 'three bus stops thro' the village within a distance of 3/4 mile but some people would have to walk a mile or perhaps more'.

Similarly, Compton Dando, where there was no bus service at all in 1947, had by 1950, apparently as the result of parish council efforts, acquired a limited service of 3 buses on Tuesdays to Bath. However, this only served the village of Compton, and not Over Charlton and Burnet, also in the parish. A further example is provided by the parish of Tellisford (Mendip district) which contained the two settlements of Tellisford and Woolverton, described as 'agricultural hamlets' about 'a mile apart'. The respondent commented:

Woolverton is situated on the main Bath-Frome road, whereas Tellisford lies over 1/2 mile to the east of this main highway, somewhat in a cul de sac ... There is no bus service to or from Tellisford, would be travellers having to walk to and from Woolverton.

While the response from Selworthy parish also illustrates the problems encountered in a parish containing more than one village, it reveals another fundamental point of confusion referred to earlier - that between the civil and the ecclesiastical parish as the unit of data collection. Referring to the questionnaire the respondent wrote:

It is difficult to know exactly how to fill it in When taken as a county parish the village of Bossington is included, but not in the church parish, which only includes Selworthy, Allerford and Lynch and a few cottages that lie in between these villages which are some little distance apart.

The listing of parishes for which data were missing was also particularly helpful in revealing those parishes such as Oare in West Somerset which did not have a village centre at all.

From Stoke St Gregory (in Taunton Deane) there was the following comment:

I have answered the question with reference to the parish, which is a very scattered one. Consequently, answers may be a little misleading as the bus services are in some cases 1 to 2 miles from fairly well populated areas and the railway station is at Athelney, 1 1/2 miles from Stoke proper.

In most of the other missing cases question F2(a) was left blank, although the respondent went on to enter the number of buses each way. This is true both for well served parishes such as Croscombe in Mendip district which had an hourly service, and for parishes with more limited transport facilities. (Batcombe, for example, had only one bus on market days and Saturdays which was 'always packed', together with a bus leaving at 7pm on Mondays 'to pictures'). Probably the nearest bus stop in each case was located in the village itself, so that the distance to the stop was negligible and the respondent did not bother to record it. In Orchard Portman, for example, the distance was reported as 'nil' and there were said to be four buses a day each way on week days.



On the whole, therefore, it would be unwise to over interpret the available information on the distance to the nearest bus stop, but a summary of the findings follows.

Information on the distance to the nearest bus stop is available for 356 of the 378 rural parishes in the study. Over three quarters of these parishes had a bus stop within half a mile of the village in 1947, 19 per cent had one more than half a mile away and only 1.7 per cent had no bus stop at all.

Crosstabulation of nearest bus stop by parish population (Table 17), shows that in all parishes except those with populations of 90 or less a substantial majority had bus stops within half a mile. In fact no parish with more than 270 people in 1951 was without a bus stop, although some cited distances of more than half a mile to reach it.

There was some variation across districts (Table 18). In both Sedgemoor and Woodspring nearly 89 per cent of parishes recorded a bus stop within half a mile of the village, while in Mendip this was true for nearly 83 per cent of parishes. However, the other districts had fewer parishes in this category and rather more with bus stops more than half a mile away. Most notable was Wansdyke, where about 71 per cent of parishes had a stop within half a mile, but where nearly 30 per cent had one more than half a mile away, and West Somerset, where the figures are about 64 per cent and 28 respectively. Only in Mendip, West Somerset and Yeovil were there isolated instances of parishes without bus stops.

## 6.2 Numbers of buses 1947/50

Bracey asked about the 'numbers of buses each way' to the 'nearest town' on different days, and it is in these terms that the results are expressed. However, there are two major sources of confusion here. The first concerns the naming of the 'nearest town'. The public transport services detailed in the remainder of Question F are presumably supposed to refer to the town named in F1 but in some cases more than one town was visited for various services and different transport services were available to each. It might also have been the case that the nearest town was not always the one commonly visited for work, shopping and other pursuits investigated by Bracey. For example, in North Cadbury parish (Yeovil district) the 1947 questionnaire names Yeovil as the 'nearest town' and then lists two buses each way on week days and four on Saturdays. In the 1950 questionnaire, however, it appears that these services referred to links with Wincanton rather than Yeovil, while there were other 'frequent services' to Yeovil, and, in addition, to Castle Cary. Similarly, the parish of Merriott, also in Yeovil district, appeared reasonably well-served with buses to Crewkerne, the nearest town, but residents actually wanted an improved service to Taunton. The service existing in 1947 was described as 'totally inadequate'. At Somerton, where Yeovil, 11 miles away, was named in the questions on transport, it was the case that 'Street (6 miles) is actually the nearest town but is very little used locally'. Also, we cannot be sure that a respondent, in answering this question, considered services only to the nearest town and did not total all bus services, regardless of the towns served. In general, where more than one town was named, the frequency of services to each of them varied. The respondent for Wincanton declined to answer the questions on transport to the 'nearest town', considering Wincanton to be a town in its own right.

Secondly, many respondents described the service as, for example, 'hourly'. For coding purposes these responses were converted to an estimate of the number of buses, assuming that 'every half hour' gave between 21 and 30 buses, 'every hour' gave 11 to 20 buses, and 'every two hours' gave 10 buses a day or fewer. There

TABLE 17 PUBLIC TRANSPORT IN 1950, BY 1951 PARISH POPULATION

	1 - 90		91-270		271-750		751-2050		2051-5550		All Responding Parishes	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Bus stop within $\frac{1}{2}$ mile	4	44.4	70	60.9	120	85.7	69	95.8	19	95.0	282	79.2
>10 buses each way on weekdays	-	-	22	21.0	53	37.3	37	50.7	11	57.9	123	35.4
Railway station within 5 miles	7	77.8	100	83.3	129	87.1	69	92.0	20	100.0	325	87.4
>10 trains each way on weekdays	-	-	5	13.5	11	20.4	10	23.8	4	33.3	30	20.3
Sunday bus or train service	4	50.0	34	38.2	75	63.6	53	84.1	14	87.5	180	61.2
Car hire	4	44.4	69	58.0	120	81.1	69	92.0	18	90.0	280	75.5
Special local transport on market day/Saturday	2	22.2	19	15.9	28	19.2	11	15.8	5	25.0	65	17.9

TABLE 18 PUBLIC TRANSPORT IN 1947/50, BY 1974 DISTRICT

	Mendip		Sedgemoor		Taunton Deane		West Somerset		Yeovil		Wansdyke		Woodspring		All Responding Parishes	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Bus stop within $\frac{1}{2}$ mile	43	82.7	40	88.9	33	76.7	23	63.9	85	79.4	27	71.1	31	88.6	282	79.2
> 10 buses each way on weekdays	12	24.5	21	44.7	17	37.0	9	26.5	18	19.0	26	68.4	20	60.6	123	35.4
Railway station within 5 miles	52	98.1	43	86.0	42	91.3	21	55.3	105	95.5	36	80.0	30	85.7	325	87.4
> 10 trains each way on weekdays	2	9.1	-	-	3	15.8	5	33.3	7	14.9	6	37.5	7	58.3	30	20.3
Sunday buses or train service	28	62.2	31	70.5	23	62.2	3	7.7	47	63.5	27	87.1	21	87.5	180	61.2
Car hire	41	75.9	39	79.6	30	68.2	30	76.9	82	75.2	28	68.3	30	85.7	280	75.5
Special local transport on market day/Saturdays	7	13.5	15	30.6	10	22.7	4	11.1	26	23.6	0	0.0	3	9.1	65	17.9

was obviously a great deal of room for error in this procedure. Furthermore, it is impossible to know whether the respondents actually counted buses 'each way' or whether they thought of the services as being 'one way', that is, from the village to the town or vice versa when answering this question.

There is the additional problem, revealed in various comments by the respondents, of seasonal variation in the frequency of bus services. For example, at Wootton Courtnay (West Somerset) buses ran 'from the garage in the village to Minehead 3 days a week in winter, twice a day every day in summer'. The service at Tickenham (Woodspring) was half hourly in winter but every 15 minutes in summer, and there were problems during fine summer weather when the buses were filled at Bristol or Clevedon and did not stop to pick up would-be passengers waiting at Tickenham. The respondent considered that a 'Clevedon to Nailsea' bus would help their 'desperate' situation.

Table 19 indicates what while over 35 per cent of the parishes for which information was available had more than 10 buses each way every week day in 1947/50, a few having as many as 50 or more a day, over half (52 per cent) had fewer than 10 buses each way a day and a further 11 per cent did not have a daily service. Of the parishes with populations of 270 or less in 1951, 62 per cent had fewer than 10 buses each way on week days and a further 18 per cent did not have a daily service. Of the parishes with fewer than 90 people in 1951, 75 per cent had fewer than 10 buses each way a day, while the remaining 25 per cent did not have a bus every week day. On the whole parishes with larger populations tended to have more frequent services, although there were still very few parishes with a half-hourly service or better on weekdays.

A district examination of the numbers of buses each way (not reproduced here) shows that Yeovil, Mendip and West Somerset were the most poorly served districts. In West Somerset, 56 per cent of parishes for which data were available reported fewer than 10 buses each way on week days, while just over a quarter had between 11 and 20 buses. The remaining parishes of West Somerset reported a service less frequent than every week day. In Yeovil, 72 per cent of parishes had fewer than 10 buses, and in 9 per cent of Yeovil parishes the service was not daily. The parishes of Mendip district were particularly poorly served: 26.5 per cent did not have a daily service. Best served district appeared to be Wansdyke where over sixty per cent had more than 10 buses each way every day. Furthermore, six parishes in Wansdyke (Batheaston, Bathford, Charlcombe, Corston, Monkton Combe and Newton St Loe) reported more than 50 buses each way on week days in 1947/50.

The most common situation with regard to bus services in the rural parishes was a bus stop within half a mile and a service of fewer than 10 buses each way every week day, which applied in almost 45 per cent of the cases.

### **6.3 Rail Services**

In general it seems that replies to the question on distance to the nearest railway station were likely to be more reliable than those for bus stops since it was unlikely that more than one station was located in a parish. However, some parishes still reported the use of several different stations, and there remains the problem of a respondent's ability to estimate correctly the distance to the station, whether by road or by some other route, together with the impossibility of knowing from what point in the parish the distance to the station was to be measured.

With these caveats in mind, Table 20 indicates the distance to the nearest railway station in 1947 for the 372 parishes for which information is available. It is

TABLE 19 BUSES EACH WAY ON WEEK DAYS 1947/50

	Number of parishes	Percent (Adjusted)
< 10	182	52.4
11-20	80	23.1
21-30	24	6.9
31-40	9	2.6
41-50	3	0.9
> 50	7	2.0
Comment on service	4	1.2
Not every weekday	38	11.0
No data	12	-
Dont know	19	-
TOTAL	378	100.0

TABLE 20 NEAREST RAIL SERVICE 1947

	Number of parishes	Percent (adjusted)
None	47	12.6
within $\frac{1}{2}$ mile	55	14.6
$\frac{1}{2}$ to 5 miles	270	72.6
No data	2	-
Dont know	4	-
TOTAL	378	100.0

assumed that the distance in each case is from the centre of the largest village in the parish, although this assumption must be an arbitrary one.

There were 6 missing values. In Rodney Stoke (Mendip district) there was a station 'in the parish' but the distance to it was not estimated. In Nettlecombe and Oare (West Somerset) and West Harptree (Wansdyke) there seem not to have been any trains. The respondent for Farmborough (Wansdyke) replied that the nearest stations were at Clutton and Hallatrow but these were 'little used', while the respondent for Ansford (Yeovil) replied that the station was at Castle Cary, commenting that the two parishes should be considered as one settlement. Adjusting for these 6 missing values, only about 13 per cent of parishes had no rail service, 72.6 per cent had a station between half a mile and 5 miles from the village, while a further 15 per cent of parishes had a station within half a mile of the village.

While few parishes were without a railway station in 1947 parishes with small populations were more likely than those with larger populations to be without one. No parish with a population greater than 2050 was without a station. Also, parishes with larger populations tended to have higher percentages of stations within half a mile than those with smaller populations. Only 3 per cent of parishes with fewer than 270 people had a station within half a mile, compared with 21 per cent of those with more than 270.

West Somerset was the district with the highest percentage of parishes without railway stations (44.7 per cent), and only 3 parishes in West Somerset reported a station within half a mile. In Mendip, in contrast, only one parish, Lamyatt, was without a station, and in this district 17 per cent of places reported a station within half a mile. In all districts, however, it was more common to find parishes with a station between half and five miles away.

As information on the numbers of trains each way on week days is available for only about 40 per cent of the study parishes, only the most tentative of conclusions on this can be drawn from Table 20. However, parishes with larger populations seemed more likely to have frequent services. Only in Yeovil was there a parish reporting more than 30 trains each way (Abbas and Templecombe).

Table 21 shows the maximum number of trains each way on week days in 1947. In the majority of cases the frequency of trains was not specified, but in the 148 parishes for which the information is available 78 per cent had up to 10 trains each way and a further 17.6 per cent had between 11 and 20. Only 4 parishes (Freshford in Wansdyke, Abbas and Templecombe in Yeovil, Brompton Regis in West Somerset and Yatton in Woodspring) reported more than 20 trains a day. In three parishes a comment was made on the frequency of the service. In Ashwick, for example, the response to the question of how many trains ran on '(a) week days' was 'very'[sic], while the response for '(b) Sunday' was 'few'.

Over half the parishes for which valid data exist had a station between half and five miles away and a maximum of up to 10 trains each way every week day.

Taking bus and train services together, only two parishes (Lamyatt in Mendip and Elworthy in West Somerset) had neither a bus stop nor a railway station. The most common occurrence, which was true of 58.5 per cent of cases, was for a parish to have a bus stop within half a mile of the village and a station between half and five miles away. Tabulation of numbers of buses by numbers of trains is a problem because valid data are available for only 37 per cent of cases. However, nearly 45 per cent of these had up to 10 buses and 10 trains each way a day on week days in 1947.

TABLE 21    MAXIMUM NUMBER OF TRAINS EACH WAY ON WEEK DAYS 1947

	Number of Parishes	Percent (adjusted)
<10	115	77.7
11-20	26	17.6
21-30	3	2.0
31-40	1	0.7
Comment on service	3	2.0
No data	90	-
Dont know	140	-
TOTAL	378	100.0

TABLE 22    NUMBER OF CHURCHES IN 1947

	Number of Parishes	Percent
1	132	34.9
2	157	41.5
3	57	15.1
4	13	3.4
5	11	2.9
6	5	1.3
> 6	1	0.3
None	2	0.5
TOTAL	378	100.0

#### 6.4 Sunday bus and rail services

Information on Sunday bus and rail services was available for about 78 per cent of parishes in the study area and almost 39 per cent of these parishes had no such services in 1947. Bus services were much more common than trains on Sundays and applied in 38 per cent of cases. However, about 16 per cent had both types of service, so that a total of over 61 per cent of parishes for which information was available had either trains or buses or both on Sundays (Table 17).

None of the West Somerset parishes had both buses and trains on Sundays and over 92 per cent had no Sunday transport at all (Table 18). In both Wansdyke and Woodspring, in contrast, only about 13 per cent of parishes had no Sunday services, over half had buses, and around 30 per cent had both buses and trains. However, in both these districts there was a fairly high percentage of parishes for which information was missing - 26 per cent of those in Wansdyke and 31 per cent of those in Woodspring. Yeovil parishes appeared particularly well served by Sunday trains, although here again it was the case that for a third of the parishes in the district there were no data.

Over half (52 per cent) of the parishes which reported a station within half a mile had Sunday trains in 1947, compared with only 20.4 per cent of parishes with stations between half and five miles away. Parishes with stations more than half a mile away were more likely to have buses rather than trains than those parishes within half a mile of the village.

#### 6.5 Car Hire

It is not clear exactly what was meant by the term 'car hire service' in the context of Bracey's research, but, as Table 17 shows, this service was available in about three quarters of the study parishes in 1947.

Again, the service was most common in places with large populations. The district with the highest percentage of parishes with a car hire service was Woodspring (Table 18), with almost 86 per cent, while in Taunton Deane and Wansdyke only about 68 per cent of parishes were served.

Stratton on the Fosse provides two instances of local car hire service - Fry & Sons, also operators of the local coach service, and C. Savage & Son at Chilcompton's Wells Road garage. And in the parish of Wootton Courtney (West Somerset) one establishment provided bus and car hire services, repairs and haulage.

#### 6.6 Special local transport arrangements on market day or Saturday

The great majority of parishes for which data were available, 82 per cent, had no special local transport arrangements. However, for the 65 parishes that did have some arrangement about half had extra buses on some days, a quarter had special market day buses and in 9 parishes (14 per cent) buses normally ran only on market days or Saturdays. Extra trains were not common, and other special arrangements, including the use of private cars, were also rare.

Nearly 37 per cent of parishes which did not have a bus service on every day of the week had some special market day or Saturday service, and in 5 of these parishes buses ran only on market days. In general it appears that parishes which ordinarily had more frequent buses were less likely to have special arrangements.

There seems to be little relationship between the population size of a parish and the reporting of special local transport arrangements for market days and



Saturdays (Table 17). However, Table 18 suggests some geographical variation. No parish in Wansdyke reported special local transport arrangements in 1947 and these arrangements were also uncommon in Woodspring, West Somerset and Mendip, though in Taunton Deane and Yeovil almost a quarter of the rural parishes reported them, and in Sedgemoor almost a third did so.

Seven Yeovil parishes had a special market day bus. For example, Brewham had a bus to Frome on market day, while at Chaffcombe the respondent reported, 'The parish council has recently inaugurated a service to operate on Thursday (Chard market day) and Saturday'. This service was 'a privately owned bus but not run by a local resident'. The parishes of Holton and Isle Abbots provide additional examples. In Sedgemoor and Mendip there were isolated instances of parishes reporting the use of private cars - Pylle, Over Stowey and Puriton. At Over Stowey this took the form of 'self help among friends with private cars', while at Puriton it was reported that 'farmers use their own transport to oblige friends who have none'.

### **6.7 Transport services: summary and comment**

Although analysis of the information on transport services collected by Bracey is made difficult by the nature of the questions he asked, it is nevertheless possible to build up a broad picture of transport provision in the survey parishes in the late 1940s, in particular because of the many comments made by the respondents concerning what was clearly an important issue.

It is apparent that the majority of the parishes, about three quarters of them, had a bus stop within half a mile, although sometimes this was across the parish boundary, and that although services were very numerous in some places, most populous parishes and places in Wansdyke on the outskirts of Bath in particular, the majority of places, over 60 per cent, had fewer than 10 buses a day or a less than daily service.

Rail services were widely available in 1947/50, although the limited data indicate that services from most rural stations were not especially frequent. Overall the parishes most commonly had a bus service within half a mile and a railway station between half and 5 miles away, and more numerous buses than trains.

Over 65 per cent of parishes for which this information was available (mainly well populated places) had some kind of public transport on a Sunday, buses being more common than trains. However, Sunday services were rare in West Somerset parishes. Parishes with bus stops and railway stations close by were more likely than those with more distant services to report Sunday transport. Additionally, a total of about 18 per cent of the parishes for which information exists, many of them in Sedgemoor and Yeovil districts, had some kind of extra or special transport services on market days or Saturdays, often, it seems, provided through the residents' own efforts.

In general there is little information on the operators of the various transport services, but there is a suggestion that they were numerous and fairly local in their operations. Private bus operators were especially evident.

There were often complaints about the inadequacy of local transport services - both in parishes which obviously lacked services and in those which, from the information reported on the questionnaire, seemed relatively well served. In Exmoor parish, for example, the largest settlement was Simonsbath. Here there were no buses at all - in fact the nearest stop was said to be five and a half miles away. The respondent made a modest suggestion: 'a bi-weekly bus service to South Molton, (named as the nearest town and 11 miles from Simonsbath), would

be a great asset; here it is possible to get a further service to Barnstaple'. At Yeovilton, also relatively badly off for transport, there were buses 'only for work people; people from Yeovilton walk to Ilchester for the bus to Yeovil. People at the other end of the parish, Bridgehampton and Speckington, catch the Yeovil bus at West Camel'. At Stawell, relatively well served, with several buses daily to Bridgwater and back, the bus service was 'generally considered inadequate'.

There is some indication of changes in bus services over time, often bringing improvements but in some places reducing the availability of local transport. Whitestaunton parish provides an interesting example:

During the War the Long Distance Bus Company ran 2 buses daily between Chard and Honiton, serving the village. Last Autumn these were cancelled and the Southern National arranged one bus service on Thursday, market day, between Yarcombe (in Devon) and Whitestaunton and Chard. The villagers have no means of doing their shopping. They have to walk to Chard (4 miles). I was able to get to school on these daily buses during the war. The village is not served as well in peacetime, and the people feel very

strongly on the matter. My children have to get to Chard to get their hair cut.

In contrast, bus services in some parishes were reported in glowing terms. It is interesting to note that crosstabulations of presence or absence of transport services by availability of other services and utilities, not reproduced here, suggest, for example, that many of the parishes without bus services also lacked mains electricity, water or sewers, rarely had such facilities as police stations or shops and were entirely without professional services. Yet some parishes which lacked all other facilities did have a very good bus service. From this first descriptive account, which precedes more analytical work, these seemed to be parishes close to the larger towns, and two examples suffice.

The first is Bradford on Tone, near Wellington and Taunton, where the respondent wrote:

I wish you to know that we are situated so near and have such an excellent bus service that it is very easy for villagers to enjoy the amenities provided educationally and socially by the neighbouring towns of Taunton and Wellington.

The second is Newton St Loe with a '10 minute service' to Bath and Bristol. Here 'a very frequent bus service to two readily accessible cities may be taken as the main reason for the large number of negative answers' elsewhere on the questionnaires.

## **7. Public Facilities**

In his 1947 questionnaire Bracey asked about these services under Places of Assembly, but each facility appeared under a separate section in 1950. The four facility types are separately examined below.

### **7.1 Churches**

While questions G1, 2 and 3 of the 1947 questionnaire asked for the presence or absence of Anglican and Roman Catholic churches, and for the denominations of Non-Conformist churches, the 1950 form asked about churches less directly in the section on Religious Organisations. Only the total number of churches in 1947

was recorded during coding; the information on denominations was omitted. Church organisations are separately discussed elsewhere.

Over three quarters of the parishes had one or two churches in 1947, slightly more having two than one (Table 22). A further 15 per cent had three churches, and nearly 8 per cent had more than three. Publow (including Pensford), for example, had at least four churches, including two Methodist churches, one at Woollard and another at Pensford, a Gospel hall, All Saints Publow and St Thomas a Becket, Pensford.

Only two parishes, Combe Hay in Wansdyke and Sharpham in Mendip reported no church in 1947. At Combe Hay parishioners are reported as attending a morning service in 1950, and a church is recorded in the 1980 survey, so the failure to report a church in the 1947 survey could have been an error on the part of the respondent, unless perhaps the church was not in use in that year. At Sharpham, in contrast, there was certainly no church in either 1947 or 1950, nor was one reported in 1980.

## **7.2 Public houses and hotels**

Since the 1947 questionnaire did not ask about hotels, but only for the number of public houses, the 1950 questionnaire, which asked about both facilities, was used to record the number present in each parish. Facilities described as 'beer houses', such as those at Nailsea Cross in Chilcompton parish and at White Port (Stratton on the Fosse) are also included. About 38 per cent of the rural parishes had 1 pub or hotel in 1950, and a further 19.3 per cent had 2, so that almost 57 per cent of the parishes had 1 or 2 pubs or hotels, and parishes with only 1 were almost twice as numerous as those with 2 (Table 23). A further quarter of the parishes had more than 2 pubs or hotels.

The great majority (nearly 83 per cent) of the rural parishes with no pub or hotel in 1950 had 1951 populations of 270 or less, and, with one exception, no parish with fewer than 270 had more than one pub or hotel. Parishes with larger populations tended to be better supplied. In Taunton Deane nearly 24 per cent of parishes, and in West Somerset as many as one third, had no pub or hotel.

## **7.3 Libraries**

Bracey's 1947 questionnaire asked, under Places of Assembly, whether or not there was a County Library Branch in a parish. In the 1950 survey, information on libraries was collected under the heading 'Educational Organisations', when Bracey asked again whether or not there was a County Library Branch and also whether there was a Private Circulating Library. (A number of private libraries was in operation at this time including, for example, parish libraries founded by the clergy and added to by legacies, the so-called 'twopenny libraries' operated by newsagents and the larger company libraries operated, for example, by Clarks and by Boots the Chemist).

The coding scheme adopted allowed the recording of the presence or absence of a branch library, private circulating library or both in 1947/50. A code for mobile libraries was also available as the scheme was designed to be compatible with that for the 1980 data. However, it was anticipated that this code would not be used and this proved to be the case.

The use of the term 'branch library' to refer to the libraries in existence in the late 1940s is perhaps misleading, since most were simply stocks of books held in village centres, halls or schoolrooms. Usually the building housing the library and the staff to run it were supplied by the parish or by such organisations as Toc H,

TABLE 23 NUMBER OF PUBLIC HOUSES AND HOTELS IN 1950

	Number of Parishes	Percent
1	142	37.6
2	73	19.3
3	33	8.7
4	12	3.2
5	12	3.2
6	14	3.7
>6	17	4.5
None	75	19.8
TOTAL	378	100.0

TABLE 24 CINEMA PERFORMANCES 1950, BY DISTRICT (1974 BOUNDARIES)

District	Fixed cinema		Mobile cinema		No cinema		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Mendip	-	-	3	5.6	51	94.4	54	14.3
Sedgemoor	1	2.0	8	16.6	41	82.0	50	13.2
Taunton Deane	1	2.2	6	13.0	39	84.8	46	12.2
West Somerset	1	2.5	9	22.5	30	75.0	40	10.6
Yeovil	2	1.8	16	14.4	93	83.8	111	29.4
Wansdyke	-	-	8	19.1	34	80.9	42	11.1
Woodspring	-	-	6	17.1	29	82.9	35	9.3
All study area	5	1.3	56	14.8	317	83.7	378	100.0

the Friends (Quakers) or the Red Cross, while the County Library service supplied the books, from 1938 onwards changing the books at regular intervals. For example, at Blagdon village hall the book collection was changed twice a year and at Crowcombe the respondent commented:

The county library is held one afternoon a week - there are 250 books from Bridgwater County Library changed every few months by the library van.

Although the term 'branch library' is retained in this account, it should be noted that these are not comparable with branch libraries as they appear in the 1980 survey.

It might also be noted that in many places, particularly those in which the library was based in a school, the adult reading public was not very large. A comment from Chillington in Yeovil district, illustrates this point:

The school is scheduled for closure and, when that happens, it may be possible to convert the present building into a library (but at present, with half a dozen exceptions, we have no adult reading public).

Only 83 parishes (22 per cent of those in the study area) had no library service in 1947/50; even the least populated parishes had them. The great majority (nearly 71 per cent) had a branch library, and a further 6.3 per cent had both a branch library and a private circulating library, so that well over three quarters of the parishes had a County Library branch in 1947/50.

Examination of the parishes with both branches and private circulating libraries is of interest, as Woodspring reported no parishes with both services and the remaining 20 per cent of parishes in that district had no library service at all. In Sedgemoor, in contrast, 10 per cent of parishes had both a branch and a private circulating library in addition to the 66 per cent with just a branch, so that Sedgemoor was the district with the highest percentage of parishes reporting both services. Private circulating libraries did not seem to be much of a feature of the parishes now in south Avon, but were more in evidence further south.

#### **7.4 Cinemas**

Bracey asked about cinemas in both the 1947 and 1950 questionnaires. In 1947, under 'Places of Assembly', he asked simply whether or not there was a cinema in the parish. In 1950 he was more concerned with the frequency of cinema performances and also with the other places visited for the cinema.

In coding the information for cinemas, responses from the 1950 survey have been used to record the presence or absence of cinema performances and also whether or not the service was provided in a cinema building. Information from 1947 was compared with that for 1950 in each parish in an effort to check the type of cinema service available. However, the use of the 1947 questionnaires often proved more confusing than helpful since many places which in fact had film shows only once or twice a week in the village hall still responded 'yes' to the question 'Cinema ... YES/NO'. This frequently led the coders to record a fixed cinema in a parish which in reality had a visiting service, and it was necessary to check and revise the findings before analysis. The information on 'other places visited for cinema' has not been formally analysed in the present study but has been referred to in describing the pattern of cinema provision by district.

A total of 61 parishes (16.4 per cent of the total in the study area) had some kind of cinema performances in 1950. Five parishes (about 1 per cent) had a fixed

cinema while nearly 15 per cent had a visiting or mobile service. Of the 61 parishes having cinema performances, nearly 92 per cent had a mobile service. There was a tendency for cinema performances to be held in the parishes with larger populations. No parishes with fewer than 90 people, and only 2 with between 91 and 270 had a cinema of any kind in 1950. Table 24 shows the pattern of parishes with cinema performances by 1974 district.

In Mendip only three parishes (Evercreech, Kilmersdon (where the performances were in fact held in Coleford) and Stratton on the Fosse) had a cinema service. All reported a show once a week, usually in a hall or school room. At Stratton on the Fosse, for example, there was a film show 'once a week at Downside School gym during term'. Residents of the rural parishes of Mendip district visited Shepton Mallet, Castle Cary, Frome, Radstock, Midsomer Norton, Wells and Bath for cinema performances.

In Sedgemoor, only Cheddar had a permanent cinema, The Regal, used also by residents of nearby rural parishes such as Shipham. Eight parishes had a visiting or mobile film service. At Edington, Nether Stowey, North Petherton, Otterhampton, Puriton and Shipham there was a film show once a week, and in Nether Stowey and Otterhampton, at least, films were shown in the village hall. Cossington also had filmshows in the village hall, although these were said to be 'only occasional', and Mark had a fortnightly showing. Residents of these parishes also visited Bridgwater, Burnham, Highbridge and Weston Super Mare to go to the cinema.

In Taunton Deane district only North Curry had a permanent cinema and 6 parishes had a visiting or mobile service. Milverton, Stoke St Gregory and West Bagborough also had a weekly show (in Milverton in the village hall), while Hatch Beauchamp had films once a fortnight. Otherwise, residents of these parishes visited Taunton or Wellington to see a film.

Dulverton was the only West Somerset parish to have a fixed cinema, and even here it appeared that the cinema was the Town Hall. Otherwise, residents of West Somerset rural parishes seem to have visited Minehead, Watchet, or even Taunton and Bridgwater. Nine parishes had a visiting or mobile film service. At Exford, Holford, Old Cleeve, Stogumber and Withycombe films were shown once a week, and Dunster had a filmshow 'one evening a week in winter'. At Timberscombe there was a fortnightly show. Nettlecombe and Porlock each reported a 'travelling' local cinema showing 'occasional' films.

In Yeovil district there were 2 cinemas, one at Wincanton and one at Castle Cary, where the Town Hall was apparently specially 'adapted for the purpose'. Sixteen other parishes had a mobile service, 10 with films once a week (Abbas and Templecombe, Curry Rivel, East Coker, Hinton St George, Ilton, Langport, Merriott, South Petherton, Winsham and West Chinnock), 3 with films 2 days a week (Bruton, Martock and Stoke Sub Hamdon) and one (Somerton) where films were shown three times a week. At Tintinhull and North Perrot a cinema was reported as 'visiting fortnightly'. In at least two parishes the films were shown in a village hall. A wide variety of other places were visited for cinema performances, including Taunton, Yeovil, Frome, Shepton Mallet, Crewkerne, Chard and Ilminster, amongst others.

In Wansdyke, 8 parishes had mobile cinema services. With the exception of Timsbury, which had film shows on three days a week, these parishes had weekly shows, mostly (at Chew Magna, High Littleton and Ubley) on Saturday nights. At Chew Magna, films were shown in the church hall. Camely, Clutton and Wellow also had a weekly filmshow. Residents of these rural parishes visited other rural

parishes to see films. For example, residents of Cameley went to Clutton. Otherwise, they visited Bristol, Bath, Midsomer Norton and Radstock.

Woodspring had 6 parishes with a mobile cinema service. In Congresbury, Winscombe, Easton in Gordano, Wrington and Nailsea there were once weekly shows. In Easton in Gordano the films were shown on Fridays at 'The Hut'. Wrington sometimes had twice weekly film shows in winter, and in Kewstoke there was 'a filmshow at the (holiday) camp in the winter months biweekly'. Other places visited for cinema shows by the residents of Woodspring parishes included Bristol, Weston Super Mare, Portishead, Clevedon and Cheddar.

### **7.5 Public facilities summary**

The rural parishes surveyed by Bracey appear to have been well supplied with churches in 1947, the great majority of places having 1 or 2, although in the information extracted for analysis in this section there is no indication of the frequency of church services, nor of the degree of activity of the various congregations.

Public houses and hotels were not as widely distributed as were churches, about a fifth of the survey parishes having none, although, as in the case of churches, the parishes with larger populations tended to be better served. There was a more marked variation by district for pubs than for churches. In West Somerset, in particular, about a third of the rural parishes had a church but no pub or hotel.

The library service was widespread in 1947/50, although most of the parishes said to have 'branch libraries' in fact had fairly modest collections of books. The mobile element of the service so familiar in 1980 was virtually absent at the time of Bracey's surveys.

In general it appears that cinemas were fairly widespread in the study area in 1950, being available in most of the towns of the area and in some of the better served rural parishes. In addition, 56 parishes reported some kind of visiting film service, typically a filmshow once a week, perhaps more often in winter, held in a village hall.

## **8. Educational facilities**

In the 1947 survey Bracey asked about schools under Section G, 'Places of Assembly'. He asked simply 'School? (type - Junior, Senior, All ages)'. There were no questions on other types of educational establishment apart from WEA groups, picked up in the section on Social Organisations, although additional detail was sometimes provided in letters accompanying the questionnaire returns. In 1950 educational organisations were allotted a section of their own, although some additional facilities such as libraries were also included. The question asked also where children attended secondary modern and grammar schools. This information had not been recorded in the analysis but is occasionally referred to in the account which follows.

In coding the information on educational facilities a simple yes/no scheme has been used to record the presence or absence of a junior school, secondary modern, grammar or all age school, or a school of another type. Adult education facilities were more complex to record since several different organisations provided them. The data refer to 1950.

In order to discover whether or not parishes had at least one of any type of school an additional variable was generated using a series of logical statements. The

TABLE 25 EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES IN 1950, BY 1951 PARISH POPULATION

	1 - 90		91-270		271-750		751-2050		2051-5550		All Responding Parishes No. %
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No. %
No school	7	77.8	56	45.9	16	10.6	3	3.9	1	5.0	83 22.0
At least one school	2	22.2	66	54.1	135	89.4	73	96.1	19	95.0	295 78.0
Junior school	1	11.1	55	45.1	121	80.1	48	63.2	17	85.0	242 64.0
Junior school only	1	11.1	54	44.3	118	78.7	39	54.2	10	55.6	222 59.8
All-standard school	1	11.1	10	8.2	14	9.3	27	35.5	3	15.0	55 14.6
All-standard school only	1	11.1	9	7.4	14	9.3	21	29.2	1	5.6	46 12.4
At least one secondary or grammar school	-	-	-	-	2	1.3	7	9.7	5	27.8	14 3.8
Adult education classes	2	22.2	6	4.9	16	10.6	17	22.4	14	70.0	55 14.6



following account opens with a general description based on this broadly defined variable and the more detailed findings for each type of school are then discussed. Adult education is separately considered.

Seventy eight per cent of the parishes in the study area had some kind of school in 1950, while 22 per cent had no schools at all. Over threequarters of the parishes without schools in 1950 had 1951 populations of 270 or less, but, as Table 25 shows, over half the parishes with 270 people or less had a school of some kind. Examination of the district pattern (Table 26) shows that the highest percentage of parishes with at least one school was for Sedgemoor, where 88 per cent of parishes had one, and the lowest for Wansdyke (71.4 per cent). In Wansdyke and also in West Somerset and Yeovil districts a quarter or more than a quarter of the parishes had no school.

### **8.1 Junior and all-standard schools**

Sixty four per cent of parishes reported a junior school in 1950, while 36 per cent (136 parishes) had none. Of those parishes that did have a junior school, nearly 77 per cent had 1951 populations greater than 270. As Table 26 shows, in all districts except West Somerset a majority of parishes had a junior school. The percentage was as high as 74.3 in Woodspring. Well over half the Somerset parishes (59 per cent) had a junior school and no other school, while 12.2 per cent had an all-standard school only in 1950.

All-standard schools were not very common in Somerset's rural parishes by 1950, being reported in just under 15 per cent of them. Nearly one third of all parishes with an all standard school in 1950 occurred in West Somerset district where the percentage of parishes having this type of school was 45 per cent, compared with fewer than a third of West Somerset parishes which had a junior school. (In the old RD of Dulverton 64 per cent of parishes had an all-standard school only). In Taunton Deane just over 26 per cent of parishes had an all-standard school. In all the other districts the percentages were much lower.

The extent to which all-standard schools had been replaced by junior and secondary schools by 1950 is of some interest. In 1950 junior schools were much more widespread than all-standard schools, and a majority of the parishes (63 per cent) had a junior school and no all-standard school while only 13 per cent had an all-standard school rather than a junior. Only 5 parishes had both and just less than a quarter of the parishes had neither. Overall, in the parishes of northern and central Somerset junior schools were more common than all-standard schools, while in West Somerset especially all-standard schools were still widespread in 1950.

### **8.2 Secondary Modern and Grammar Schools**

Only 14 of the rural parishes (under 4 per cent), mainly those with large populations, had a secondary or grammar school in 1950. Each of these parishes had a secondary modern and two of them (Bruton in Yeovil district and Wedmore in Sedgemoor) also had grammar schools. In addition 12 parishes had a junior school as well as a secondary modern.

There were no secondary modern or grammar schools in the rural parishes of Taunton Deane or West Somerset districts (Table 26). Children living in the rural parishes of Taunton Deane visited, for example, Wiveliscombe, Wellington and Williton for Secondary Modern schools and Taunton and Wellington for both Secondary Modern and Grammar schools. In West Somerset, children attended Secondary Modern schools at Williton, Dunkerton, Wiveliscombe and Minehead,

TABLE 26 EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES IN 1950, BY 1974 DISTRICT

	Mendip		Sedgemoor		Taunton		Deane		West Somerset		Yeovil		Wansdyke		Woodspring		All Responding Parishes	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
No school	10	18.5	6	12.0	10	21.7	10	25.0	29	26.1	12	28.6	6	17.1	83	22.0		
At least one school	44	81.5	44	88.0	36	78.3	30	75.0	82	73.9	30	71.4	29	82.9	295	78.0		
Junior school	40	74.1	37	74.0	25	54.3	13	32.5	73	65.8	28	66.7	26	74.3	242	64.0		
All-standard school	3	5.6	7	14.0	12	26.1	18	45.0	9	8.1	4	9.5	2	5.7	55	14.6		
Junior school only	39	73.6	34	69.4	23	53.5	12	30.0	68	61.3	23	54.8	23	69.7	222	59.8		
All-standard school only	3	5.7	6	12.2	9	20.9	17	42.5	7	6.3	2	4.8	2	6.1	46	12.4		
At least one secondary or grammar school	1	1.9	3	6.1	-	-	-	-	5	4.5	4	9.5	1	3.0	14	3.8		
Adult education classes	8	14.8	9	18.0	2	4.3	6	15.0	11	9.9	7	16.7	12	34.3	55	14.6		

and others went to grammar school at Minehead, Wedmore, Taunton or Bridgwater.

### **8.3 Other schools**

Only 10 parishes (nearly 3 per cent) had some other school in 1950 and the majority of these (7) were parishes with more than 750 people. Schools recorded in this category included a number of infant schools (at Churchill, Flax Bourton and Yatton in Woodspring) and private schools (for example at Wembdon in Sedgemoor and North Curry in Taunton Deane). There were also preparatory or public schools, such as St George's preparatory at Bradford on Tone and a girls' public school at Bratton Seymour. Perhaps the widest range of schools was to be found at Bruton which had a County All Age school, Mrs Ayle's (private), Kings (public), Sunny Hill (independent) and Sexey's Secondary Grammar.

### **8.4 Adult Education**

While the majority of parishes (8.4 per cent) reported no adult education facilities in 1950, the rest of the parishes had some classes. County Evening Institute classes were provided in 19 parishes (34.5 per cent of those with classes), 9 parishes (just over 16 per cent) had WEA classes, and 14 (a quarter) had adult education classes of some other type. Eleven parishes reported adult education facilities provided by more than one organisation.

Since adult education classes did not seem to be very numerous, statements about their distribution can only be at a very general level. Parishes which did have classes included a few of those with very small populations, but for the most part those parishes with adult education facilities of various types were more likely to have 1951 populations greater than 270. The percentage of parishes reporting these facilities was higher in Woodspring (about a third of parishes) than elsewhere. Parishes with County Evening Institute classes were reported in all districts. 'Other' types of adult education class included, for example, music appreciation at Banwell, handicrafts at Clapton in Gordano and woodwork and needlework at Weston in Gordano. The pattern of classes by district is shown in Table 26.

### **8.5 Education: summary and comment**

Overall, 22 per cent of the rural parishes surveyed by Bracey had no school, and in West Somerset, Yeovil and Wansdyke districts over a quarter of the parishes had none. In particular, parishes with small populations rarely had schools, but those that did tended to have junior schools rather than schools of other types.

However, the majority of the parishes - 78 per cent - had at least one school in 1950, usually a junior school. Sixty four per cent of parishes had a junior school, and in 59 per cent of cases this was the only school in the parish. About 39 per cent of the parishes without a junior school had an all-standard school and the empirical information suggests that junior schools and all-standard schools were to some extent alternatives. All-standard schools were especially numerous in West Somerset where there were fewer junior schools than elsewhere. In 46 parishes (just over 12 per cent) the all-standard school was the only school.

Secondary modern and grammar schools were not often found in the rural parishes and children of secondary school age usually travelled into the towns to attend them. About 15 per cent of the parishes had some kind of adult education facility in 1950.

Thus while opportunities for primary education appear to have been good in Somerset rural parishes in 1950, more specialised secondary and adult education facilities were scarcer and in all probability (since there is no survey information on places visited for adult education) largely restricted to the towns.

It is particularly important to set these findings within the context of changes in education brought about by the 1944 Education Act. Many of Somerset's schools were to close because they could not be brought up to the high standards required by the new building regulations. In addition, the Local Authorities' obligation to provide primary and secondary schooling in separate establishments and to supply school transport where necessary were especially significant. A number of all-standard schools apparently remained at the time of Bracey's second survey. For example, schools at Enmore and Exmoor parishes were described as all-standard schools in 1950 although both were scheduled to become junior schools under Somerset Education Committee's Development Plan for Primary and Secondary Education (1952 Amendment). The school in Exmoor parish was to be maintained although it had only 1 class of children. Here the headmistress, the respondent for the parish, commented:

As head teacher I should stress the fact that after leaving school at the early age of 14 or 15 years there is no opportunity for any further education.

The headmaster at West Bradley, where the all-standard school was still operating in 1950, commented, 'school not yet reorganised'. This school was in fact due to close and the children were to attend a new County school at Baltonsborough. Other all-standard schools had by 1950 become junior schools. At Crowcombe (West Somerset), for example, the all-standard school reported in 1947 had become a junior school to be maintained by the Local Authority and older children were attending secondary schools elsewhere.

The separation of primary and secondary education, with the secondary schools being provided almost exclusively in the towns, attracted a good deal of comment from Bracey's respondents, many of whom were head teachers. At Crowcombe, for example, the head had retired by 1950 but filled in the second questionnaire for the parish, commenting as follows:

I find that the senior children go to Williton Modern school, or Minehead Grammar school, or Bishop Fox's or Huish Grammar school in Taunton; it rather tends to end youth activities locally. Parents are apt to go to the towns where their children attend school, and shop and meet their children. Thus they use either Williton or Minehead, or Taunton.

Comments from West Quantoxhead were similar but referred to school closure. Here the junior school was to be closed and the children were to go to East Quantoxhead and Kilve County School. The headmaster wrote:

Our village is I am afraid rapidly turning into one for retired and aged folk. I have only 12 children now in a school which 50 years ago numbered over 70 on books. The younger people with children are gradually being accommodated in the new housing at Williton ... Such changes in a few years tend to change the entire character of a village. I shall be retiring shortly after 20 years in this school and it is really sad to see the decline in village life and activities.

At Chillington (Yeovil district) the headmistress painted a gloomy picture of the village in the 1947 questionnaire:

The school is scheduled for closure...I am sorry to paint such a sombre picture of what seems to be a dying village (there are 15 pupils here - and the number will be down to 11 in 1948) but these are the facts.

But by 1950 things had changed. Although Chillington school had indeed been due to close under the Development Plan (the children were to attend a new school at Dowlish Wake), the new headmistress who was Bracey's respondent in the 1950 survey reported that the school now had a 'total roll (of) about 36 - 40' and served Dowlish Wake, Cudworth, Kingstone and Allowenshay.

Evidence from Stockland seemed to suggest that school closure and subsequent transport of children to schools outside the parish did not necessarily bring decline.

We were once described in a Sunday paper as a dying village because our school is closed, but a bus takes our few children to Combwich or Storgursey; several go to Bridgwater and about half a dozen small ones to St Hilda's school, Otterhampton. We consider we are not large in numbers but very much alive in our social activities.

## **9. Services in 1950: some concluding comments**

Of the services described in this chapter, several - most particularly public utilities, educational facilities and transport - were omitted from Bracey's analyses. Others were used in the calculation of his various indices in a highly summarised way. Here it is useful to draw together some of the main findings of this more descriptive treatment of the data collected on services in summary form and to make one or two comments. For example, it is apparent that in the case of nearly all the facilities examined there is variation by both parish population and district, more populous places and those located in that part of the study area which is now south Avon tending to contain more numerous services than elsewhere.

In the late 1940s it was common for public utilities to be provided by a number of small companies, and the coverage and quality of the service showed a great deal of spatial variation. Although most parishes had mains electricity and water, only just over a quarter had mains sewers to most houses. As Bracey commented:

Relatively few parishes in Somerset enjoy complete water- carriage systems of sewage disposal, even where there is a main water supply, although small, make-shift schemes with short lengths of drains and sewers often discharge crude sewage into not-so-far-away water-courses and ditches. (Bracey 1958 p. 70).

Very few places - those close to the towns where town gas was generated - had supplies of mains gas. However, not many lacked a regular refuse collection, although the frequency of the service varied considerably by local authority area.

Letters from respondents emphasised the need for improved electricity supplies and for mains sewerage and water, the lack of which was a serious obstacle to housing construction and improvement - itself an important issue during this early postwar period.

Of the other public utilities, postal services and public telephones were widespread; about 80 per cent of the survey parishes had both a post office and at least one public telephone. However, police and fire stations were much less numerous. Two thirds of the parishes were without either service.

The fairly detailed information available on shops suggests that although almost 10 per cent of the parishes had no shops in 1950 over two thirds had between 1 and 10. In addition, despite the difficulties of data extraction, it is apparent that even the least populous places and those with few shops were well served by visiting tradesmen. Deliveries of groceries and fresh foods, and of newspapers, coal and laundry, were particularly widespread. The most common shop types were the grocer/general store and the post office, but the preponderance of specialist food stores - the butcher, the greengrocer - was also striking, as was the number of services such as hairdressers and laundries. The results suggest eight major shopping centres, each with more than 50 shops - Cheddar, Wedmore, Porlock, Bruton, Castle Cary, Wincanton and Paulton, a finding somewhat at odds with Bracey's 1962 analysis. In the case of the other selected services for which a direct comparison is possible, however, we may be reasonably certain that the basic results as presented from the computer-based analysis match well with the figures given by Bracey.

The major rural shopping centres, along with a range of more minor centres, were also the most usual location for the various professional services found in the rural parishes. In fact very few of the parishes reported professional services. Neither were health services particularly widespread in 1950. About 68 per cent of the survey parishes had no doctor's surgery, and a total of 62.5 per cent had no doctor or child welfare clinic. Other health services were still scarcer. For example, about 91 per cent of places had no dentist or chemist and 97 per cent had no optician. Again, there was a noticeable tendency for these services to cluster in the larger rural centres such as Cheddar and Wincanton. In general both professional and health services were more likely to be based in the towns.

The section on public transport is noteworthy for the number of problems it reveals in Bracey's questionnaire design and also for the very large number of comments from respondents, especially complaints, which reveal the importance of public transport locally. Although the majority of parishes had a bus stop, over 60 per cent had fewer than 10 buses each way a day, or a less than daily service. Many of the bus services were run by locally based operators. Rail services were widely available, although again not especially frequent. At a time when private car ownership was not widespread about three quarters of the survey parishes reported some kind of car hire service. Sunday services were fairly uncommon, especially in West Somerset, but about 18 per cent of places had additional transport services on market days or Saturdays, often provided through local residents' own efforts. Some parishes close to urban areas had very good bus services but lacked other facilities, commenting that these were readily available in the nearby town. In other parts of the study area in, it seems, quite different types of community, the lack of public transport was associated with a lack of other basic facilities and a serious problem.

Section 7 on public facilities, reveals, not surprisingly, that every parish (with one exception) had at least one church. Public houses and hotels were not as widely distributed. Over three quarters of the parishes had some kind of library in 1947/50, although most were modest, and although the books were in general changed regularly the library service itself was not a mobile one. Cinemas, in contrast, were mobile rather than fixed in the rural parishes.

About 78 per cent of the rural parishes had a school of some kind in 1950, although in West Somerset, Yeovil and Wansdyke districts over a quarter of the parishes had none. Junior schools were the most common type, especially in parishes with small populations. Secondary schooling and adult education were a feature of the largest rural centres but were more likely to be based in the towns. The findings reflect the changing pattern of education following the 1944

Education Act which brought the separation of primary and secondary schooling, the abolition of all-standard schools and the closure of a number of schools whose buildings could not be brought up to the standard required by the new building regulations. In Somerset, at the time of Bracey's surveys, a number of schools, particularly in West Somerset, had not yet been reorganised. Many of the respondents were themselves headteachers and they made numerous comments on the effects that these changes would have, in particular linking school closures with a perceived decline in the quality of village life.

The existence of close links between local schools and the social life of the parishes, especially through the leadership of school teachers and the use of school buildings for social activities, is one of the findings to emerge in an examination of social and sporting facilities and social life, the subject of a further working paper (Appendix 7).

## **APPENDIX 7**

### **THE PARISHES OF SOMERSET IN 1950 : SOCIAL AND SPORTING FACILITIES AND SOCIAL LIFE**

#### **1. Introduction**

In this paper halls and other meeting places and public open space available in the rural parishes of Somerset are considered along with the various social organisations which owned, managed, maintained, used, promoted and enjoyed them. Bracey himself discussed these topics only in the most general terms, for example in the concluding section of his 1962 paper when he concentrated on the number and variety of social organisations present in central villages. Although Bracey's questionnaires asked about these various aspects of village social life in a number of distinct sections, so that the survey results are also presented topic by topic, it is in reality very difficult to separate, for example, the social club from the village hall it managed or the sports field from the cricket club which owned it. Similarly, although dances and whist drives are treated in a small section of their own, these activities were run by wide variety of groups, usually to raise funds to build new halls or to purchase new playing fields.

The paper concludes with a brief discussion of rural social life in the Somerset of the late 1940s as it appears from a piecing together of both the questionnaire evidence and numerous comments supplied by the respondents in letters or simply on the backs of the forms they filled in.

Overall, the information on social groups and facilities reveals that the parishes varied widely from the very rural and isolated, with local residents too few in number, too widely scattered or too busy on the farms to run social clubs, or else heavily dependent on the local squire or vicar for leadership, to those with flourishing social groups, often run by committees drawn from several neighbouring parishes, making ambitious plans for still more halls, playing fields or events.

#### **2. Halls and Other Meeting Places**

The 1947 questionnaire asked about halls and other meeting places under 'Places of Assembly'. The village hall was singled out for detailed investigation, with questions on, for example, ownership, construction, seating capacity and facilities available, while other public rooms were listed by name, controlling organisation and seating capacity. No questions were asked about the frequency of use of halls, nor on what activities took place in them, outside those suggested by the naming of the hall and the identification of controlling organisations. However, the following section, on social organisations, asked where the various clubs and societies met and where such activities as dances and whist drives were held, so that an indication of the use of each hall is provided. In the 1950 questionnaire the emphasis was different. Bracey investigated a wide range of clubs and societies but not where they met, and in investigating halls he asked simply for the number in the parish.

In recording the information on halls use was made of both of Bracey's surveys to arrive at an estimation of the situation in 1950. First the number of halls in a parish was counted, then details on hall type and ownership or management for



up to 7 halls were recorded using a multiple response framework. Information on hall size, facilities, heating, construction and facilities was omitted.

The majority of Somerset's rural parishes - about 87 per cent - had at least one hall or other meeting place in 1950, and over a third (36.5 per cent), mostly those with relatively large populations, had more than one. Only 3 parishes had more than 6 halls so that the recording of details on up to only 7 halls was not a serious limitation. Forty eight rural parishes (about 13 per cent of those studied) had no halls in 1950. Of parishes with no halls, about 71 per cent had 1951 populations of less than 270 (Table 1).

As Table 2 indicates, the village hall was the most frequently cited hall type in 1947/50, with 37 per cent of responses, followed by the church hall (21 per cent), 'other halls, including, for example, those run by the WI or Royal British Legion, (15 per cent) and school halls (12 per cent). An examination of the 'halls per parish' column of Table 2 supports the finding that the rural parishes typically had 1 or 2 (1.69) halls. Parishes reporting one hall were more likely to have a village hall than a hall of some other type, although school halls and church halls were also likely candidates.

More populous parishes had a wider variety of hall types than those with small populations. While village halls, church halls and school halls were reported in parishes of all population sizes, no parish with fewer than 90 people had a scout hut, WI or similar hut, or a pub room in 1947/50.

Church halls were particularly widespread in what is now West Somerset and in Taunton Deane and Sedgemoor. School halls were well represented in Yeovil district. Taunton Deane appeared to have the largest number of parishes with few or no halls, while Wansdyke, Woodspring and West Somerset were better off (Table 3). In West Somerset it was usual for parishes to report 2 or 3 halls. Thirty five per cent had 2 and a total of 62.5 per cent had 2 or more.

Table 4 reveals that the largest number of halls for which information was available, nearly 28 per cent, were managed by church organisations, and that slightly fewer (26.2 per cent) were owned or managed by a committee of some kind. There is some doubt as to the amount of overlap between the various categories of ownership or management discussed here, since management committees might have represented specific organisations; Kelston village hall, for example, was run by the Kelston sports club committee. The extent of the management of halls by parish councils, in particular, is likely to have been underestimated. As it is, only 7 per cent of halls were reported as being owned or managed by parish councils. Nearly 12 per cent of the halls were owned or managed by a main user organisation such as the WI. About 13.5 per cent, mainly pub rooms or rooms in 'other buildings', but occasionally village halls, were privately owned. An additional 8 per cent of halls were run by schools or other educational organisations.

There was, of course, considerable variation in controlling organisation by hall type, as Table 4 shows. Village halls were most likely to be owned or managed by committees, although 27 of them were run by parish councils. The difficulty of distinguishing between these two ownership or management categories is again apparent since many of the committees were representative of the people of the parish and yet there is no evidence that they were made up of parish councillors. Taking these two categories together, 75 per cent of village halls were run either by committees or by parish councils. Not surprisingly, school halls were usually owned or managed by schools and church halls by church organisations, although a number of school halls were also run by church bodies. Other ownership categories, including parish councils and management committees, were also cited

TABLE 1 PARISHES WITH HALLS AND OTHER MEETING PLACES AND LOCAL OPEN SPACE  
IN 1947/50, BY 1951 POPULATION

	1 - 90		91-270		271-750		751-2050		2051-5550		All Responding Parishes	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
No Halls	4	44.4	30	24.6	9	6.0	4	5.3	1	5.0	48	12.7
1 - 2 Halls	4	44.4	89	73.8	128	84.8	44	57.9	9	45.0	274	72.5
3+ Halls	1	11.1	3	2.4	14	9.3	28	36.7	10	50.0	56	14.8
School Playing Field	-	-	9	17.6	22	43.1	15	29.4	5	9.8	51	13.5
Park or Recreation ground	-	-	6	5.0	27	17.9	32	42.1	13	65.0	78	20.7
Common Land	1	11.1	21	17.5	26	17.2	18	23.7	5	26.3	71	18.9
Allotments	1	11.1	33	27.7	83	55.7	63	82.9	17	85.0	197	52.8

TABLE 2 TYPES OF HALL AND MEETING PLACE 1950

	Number	Percent of Responses	Halls per parish
Village Hall	206	37.1	0.63
School Hall	70	12.6	0.21
Church Hall	117	21.1	0.36
Scout Hut etc	10	1.8	0.03
Other eg WI Hall	82	14.8	0.25
Pub Room	28	5.0	0.09
In other buildings	23	4.1	0.07
No details	19	3.4	0.06
Total responses	555	100.0	1.69

329 valid cases

TABLE 3 PARISHES WITH HALLS AND OTHER MEETING PLACES AND LOCAL OPEN SPACE IN 1947/50, BY 1974 DISTRICT

	Mendip		Sedgemoor		Taunton Deane		West Somerset		Yeovil		Wansdyke		Woodspring		All Responding Parishes	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
No Halls	9	16.7	8	16.0	9	19.6	5	12.5	11	9.9	3	7.1	3	8.6	48	12.7
1 - 2 Halls	38	70.4	37	74.0	35	76.1	24	60.0	87	78.4	27	64.3	26	74.3	82	21.7
3+ Halls	7	13.0	5	10.0	2	4.3	11	27.5	13	11.7	12	28.6	6	17.1	56	14.8
School playing field	9	16.7	7	14.3	4	8.7	4	10.0	18	16.2	5	11.9	4	11.4	51	13.5
Park or rec- reation ground	13	24.1	6	12.2	6	13.0	12	30.8	20	18.0	13	31.0	8	22.9	78	20.7
Common land	4	7.4	9	18.4	8	17.8	18	45.0	14	12.7	8	19.0	10	28.6	71	18.9
Allotments	27	50.0	24	50.0	19	41.3	16	42.1	62	56.4	28	66.7	21	60.0	197	52.8

TABLE 4 TYPES OF HALL OR MEETING PLACE BY OWNERSHIP OR MANAGEMENT 1950

	Management Committee	Parish Council	School	Church	Main use Organisation	Other Organisation	Private Owner	Not Specified	All Halls No.	%
Village Hall	116	27	2	16	2	3	19	5	190	36.1
School Hall	3	4	37	20	1	-	1	1	67	12.7
Church Hall	5	5	-	105	1	-	-	-	116	22.1
Scout Hut etc	-	-	2	1	4	-	1	-	8	1.5
Other (eg WI)	11	1	-	-	52	4	8	3	79	15.0
Pub room	-	-	-	-	-	-	27	-	27	5.1
In other building	2	1	-	3	1	-	15	-	22	4.2
No details	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	16	17	3.2
All Halls No.	138	33	41	145	61	7	71	25	526	100.0
Percent	26.2	7.2	7.8	27.6	11.6	1.3	13.5	4.8		

Percent and totals based on parishes. 312 valid cases.

for both school and church halls. The main user organisation was most often cited as controlling 'other' halls and scout huts. All pub rooms, such as the Billiard Room at the King William in Tunley (Dunkerton parish), and the Assembly Rooms at the Lamb and Flag in Buckland St Mary, were recorded as being privately owned, and meeting rooms 'in other buildings' also tended to fall into this category. Examples include Reading Rooms (at Henstridge and Kingsdon) and sports clubs (Stockland Bristol).

The extent of private ownership of halls and 'rooms in other buildings' reveals something of the patronage of local social life by the landed gentry. Examples of 'rooms in other buildings' include the 'Manor Room' at Cricket St Thomas, and those at Kingweston House and Whitestaunton Manor. At Wayford, in Mendip district, the respondent was the resident of Wayford Manor who, in answer to the question 'Other Public Rooms?' replied 'one room at my house', said to be the venue for, for example, fortnightly whist drives. A further example from Whitestaunton parish illustrates this point:

The parishioners have for many years been agitating for a village hall. At present they are granted the use of the Manor Room owned by Col. Couchman, for 4-6 functions during the winter. The school building is much too small. This is also owned by Col. Couchman, who has been very good in allowing the use of his property. This, of course, cannot be used at any time.

Significantly, a further comment on the same questionnaire read, 'Col. Couchman has filled in this form'.

Although the results presented above suggest that halls were fairly widespread in Somerset's rural parishes at the time of Bracey's surveys, there is a wealth of information from a large number of parishes which records efforts to provide still more halls or to improve existing meeting places, often as a gesture to mark the end of the war and to welcome local men returning home.

At Queen Camel, Kewstoke, Barrington, Nynhead and Huntspill, for example, projects were underway to provide new village halls. At Barrington fund raising was linked to the formation of a social club which admitted 'members of both sexes over 12 years', and which met in 'the club room, Royal Oak'. Nynhead in Taunton Deane district was said to be 'desperately in need of a village hall. A village committee has been working for two years and has about 500 to hand. This committee has had a difficult task as the only room available is the school'. The residents of Pitminster were also hoping for a village hall to replace the school. Pitminster school was closed in 1914 'but reopened for a couple of months during the war for use by evacuees; by 1947 [it was] in use as a clubroom for various parish meetings'.

At Huntspill the parishioners were slightly better off but still lacked space for social functions:

A social and sports club have recently purchased a hut and are raising money to enlarge and equip it as a social centre for the village. This will be an addition to the C of E hall and the Methodist schoolroom which already house four voluntary organisations - Mothers Union, Dramatic Society, WI and Nursing Association.

Village halls were not the only meeting places for which funds were being collected. At Hardington Mandeville, 'The Womens Institute are planning to have a hall in the parish and already have plans passed; I do not know if this will be a

village hall or just for the WI'. While at Long Load the respondent commented, 'There is a strong church hall committee which organises whist drives, dances, and a summer fete and winter fair each year. It is hoped to build a church hall and Sunday school so that the day school may not always have to be used'.

Parishes where fund raising for halls was linked to the provision of a war memorial included, for example, Old Cleeve where it was planned to build a village hall at Washford: 'There is a committee elected for the purpose of staging various efforts such as whist drives etc in order to raise funds'. At Kingsdon the plans went a little further:

There is a project on hand at the present to build a village hall, and over 1000 has been raised in two years. This is a Welcome Home Fund, and it was decided at a village meeting to build a hall and give ex-soldiers a life membership ticket, entitling them to go to public functions free, instead of making a distribution of money in the usual way.

Some parishes were proceeding more quickly than others in their fund raising efforts. In Leigh upon Mendip, where a committee had 'been formed with the object of raising funds to provide a village hall to commemorate the fallen of the two wars 1914-18 and 1939-45', the committee had 'been working since November 1946' so that it would 'probably be some years before its ambition is achieved'. At Wembdon the outlook was particularly uncertain. There a parish meeting in 1944 recommended a community centre as a form of memorial for the parish:

A community organisation was formed, representative of all organisations. Two years were spent in deliberations, contacting national and local bodies e.g. National Council of Social Services, Somerset Education Committee. The financial assistance voluntarily promised was not sufficient to warrant proceeding further. The Community Association reported to a Parish Meeting and thereafter disbanded.

But in 1946 'a rate-aided scheme for the provision of a playing field and village hall' was proposed in the same parish. The respondent commented, 'The Parish Council is sponsoring the scheme and will report ...on the possibilities or otherwise'. It was not uncommon for efforts to build new halls to be linked to the provision of sports facilities or playing fields, and these are discussed in the section which follows.

### **3. Local Open Space**

Bracey asked about local open space in section E of the 1947 questionnaire. The presence or absence of each facility has been recorded using a simple yes/no scheme. Information on allotments is presented in this section since Bracey grouped them with playing fields, parks, recreation grounds and commons, although it is recognised that their inclusion as a 'social' facility is perhaps doubtful. There is in any case doubt about the definition of each of the other types of open space and respondents commented on this in a number of instances.

#### **3.1 School playing fields**

Only 51 of the 377 parishes for which information was available (13.5 per cent) had a school playing field in 1947, while over 86 per cent did not have one (Table 1, above). None of the least populated parishes, and only 11.4 per cent of those

with between 91 and 750 people, had a school playing field although about a quarter of the places with more than 2050 people did so.

There were four instances in which a parish was said to have a school playing field in 1947 but which did not have a school in 1950. In each case the parish had suffered a school closure between the two survey dates and there is no information as to whether the playing field remained available after the school had closed. Overall, only 16 per cent of parishes with at least one school also had a school playing field.

The percentage of parishes with school playing fields was highest in Mendip at 16.7 per cent, and Yeovil (16.2) and lowest in Taunton Deane where only 8.7 per cent of the parishes had one (Table 3). While only 11 per cent of the parishes in Taunton Deane which had a school also had a playing field, in Yeovil district nearly a fifth of the parishes with a school also had this facility. In the old Rural District of Wellington none of the parishes with a school had a school playing field.

### **3.2 Parks or recreation grounds and commons**

A slightly higher proportion of the parishes – over a fifth – had a park or recreation ground, and again, those places that did have this type of local open space were more likely to be those with larger populations (Table 1).

Sixty five per cent of parishes in the largest population size group reported a park or recreation ground. The percentage of parishes with this facility was highest in Wansdyke (31.0) and West Somerset (30.8) and lowest in Sedgemoor district (12.2 per cent) as Table 4 shows. Seventy one per cent of all the rural parishes for which information is available had neither a school, playing field nor a park or recreation ground, while only 5 per cent had both.

Surprisingly, perhaps, it was also the case that commons were not widely reported, occurring in only 19 per cent of cases, and even in the most populous places only just over a quarter had them (Table 1). In West Somerset 45 per cent of the rural parishes had common land in 1947 compared with only 19 per cent for the study area as a whole. There was wide variation by district and in Mendip only 4 parishes (7.4 per cent) reported commons (Table 3).

While many of the parishes apparently lacked open space facilities there were numerous cases in which local landowners, particularly farmers, provided fields for sports use. The respondents were at pains to point out that these could not accurately be described as parks, recreation grounds or playing fields yet the parish was not without sporting facilities. For example, at Kingsdon (Yeovil district) it was noted that 'the children and young lads play in a field by kind permission of a farmer, although it is not technically a playing field'.

Particularly striking was the number of parishes in which the provision of a sports field, play ground or similar facility was a matter of some priority, so much so that funds were being collected for the purpose. At Wootton Courtnay, where a cricket club was already well established and there were hopes of starting a football club, the respondent commented, 'it is to be hoped, when purchase of the playing field (is) completed, to have bowls, tennis etc. It is a good field extending to almost 5 acres'. Similarly at Nunney land had been bought 'and vested in the Parish Council for a village playing field'.

In several places the playing field was intended as a war memorial. In Long Sutton (Yeovil) it was the case that:



A special committee - the Long Sutton Peace Memorial Committee - is at this time working to raise funds for ...playing fields. The site in fact has been purchased and in the autumn steps are being taken to lay out the playing fields.

In Kingston St Mary (Taunton Deane), there was a similar project:

As part of our local war memorial scheme we have a field of 3 acres or less which we are going to equip as a childrens' playground (when equipment is obtainable) and as a sports ground for the school children.

### **3.3 Allotments**

Over half the parishes (52.1 per cent) had allotments in 1947, but again the most populous parishes did better. While only 27 per cent of parishes with fewer than 270 people, including only one with fewer than 90, had allotments, over two thirds of those with populations greater than 270 reported them (Table 1). Further tabulations not reproduced here suggest that allotments were particularly likely to be found in parishes with a large number of whole time farm workers. In Wansdyke over two thirds of the parishes had allotments, and in Woodspring 60 per cent reported them. Other districts, particularly Taunton Deane and West Somerset, were less well off, but it was still the case that in Mendip, Sedgemoor and Yeovil half or more than half of the parishes reported allotments (Table 3).

Thus it is clear firstly that while a small majority of the parishes had allotments the other three types of facility were relatively scarce, and secondly that some districts were better off than others in terms of the percentage of parishes with each type of facility. In particular, for example, West Somerset was well off for parks or recreation grounds and commons but not for school playing fields or allotments, while Taunton Deane was relatively badly off for each facility. Of course, in a largely rural county, the absence of specialised open space facilities was not necessarily a problem.

## **4. Social Organisations and Clubs**

The 1947 questionnaire, under Section H: Social Organisations, included a number of questions on both young people's and adults' social groups. For boy scouts, girl guides and youth clubs (Questions 5 to 7) the question also asked where meetings were held, and for Sunday schools the denomination was to be specified (Question 8). Section H also asked where Musical and Dramatic Societies, Listening or Discussion Groups, Womens Institute or Royal British Legion meetings were held, but for sports clubs and for the rather different groups included in Questions 21 to 24 no meeting place was specified. The questions 'Any other adult organisation?' and 'Any political clubs?' were open ended, but Questions 19 and 20, on regular dances and whist drives, were more detailed, asking not only for the venues of these events but also for their sponsors and frequency. Section H also included a question on WEA groups, already dealt with in a separate working paper on services.

In the 1947 questionnaire Bracey also asked whether or not the parish had a parish council and replies to this are examined in Section 5, below.

On the 1950 survey form the questions on social organisations were sharply divided into youth and adult groups and a greater range of activities was specified. However, in 1950 Bracey did not ask where the various clubs and societies were held, nor how often they met, although under the Miscellaneous

Social category he asked only for choirs, whist drives and dances held monthly or more often to be included. Sunday schools and other church organisations were included as a separate section and WEA and other adult education classes were dealt with under Educational Organisations.

In describing the findings the information has, as far as possible, been standardised to 1950, although the information on dances and whist drives is for 1947.

The various clubs and social activities have been grouped together and coded according to a scheme compatible with that for the 1980 survey. In most cases a simple yes/no code has been used to record the presence or absence of clubs of various types and any variations from this scheme are described in the section in which they occur.

Meeting places are recorded according to the scheme set out in Appendix 5. If more than one meeting place was cited for a club or an organisation only the first one was coded. This procedure will inevitably have led to some loss of information. It should also be noted that a number of social groups were said to meet 'outside the parish' in which they were recorded. Undoubtedly branches of certain organisations drew members from a number of parishes. The data do not allow an accurate estimate of the total number of such branches.

#### **4.1 Young peoples' clubs**

Just over a quarter of the rural parishes, generally those with 1951 populations greater than 270, had a scout or guide pack or similar groups such as brownies in 1950 (Table 5). There was some variation both by 1974 District (Table 6) and by old Rural District, and Dulverton RD was particularly striking in that more than half of the rural parishes had such a group. Information as to meeting places is available for 88 of the 107 cases listed as having scouts or guides in 1947. The village hall was the most frequently cited meeting place (overall about 22 per cent of groups met there) for scouts and guides, especially in the most populous parishes and in West Somerset. In parishes with fewer than 270 people over one third of the scout packs met outside the parish in which they were reported. In others of the less well populated places church halls were a common meeting place, especially in the parishes of Mendip and Sedgemoor districts. There were also a few groups meeting in 'other places', including a scout pack at Stoke St Michael, Mendip, which met in the vicarage garage.

Although Bracey asked about cadets, the ATC and the Girls' Training Corps in 1950, the findings might well be combined with those for scouts and similar groups. Only 26 parishes reported cadets, and only one was a parish with fewer than 270 people in 1951 (Table 5). Only one parish in Woodspring (Nailsea) and 2 in West Somerset (Porlock and Williton) reported this kind of group. About a quarter of the parishes reporting them occurred in Mendip district where 11.3 per cent of parishes had at least one. Only 5 per cent of all the parishes had both cadets and scouts, guides or similar groups, although the majority (69 per cent) of those with cadets also had scouts or guides. It is not known to what extent these two types of activity were complementary or alternatives for one another, but it may be noted that Dulverton RD, at least, was well off for scouts and guides but had no cadet group at all. Well over three quarters of the parishes with cadets had 1951 populations greater than 750. The limited information on meeting places suggests that many of the cadet groups may have met outside the parishes in which they were reported.

Youth clubs have been coded according to whether they were mixed or for boys or girls only. Although fewer than half the parishes had a youth club in 1950,

TABLE 5 PARISHES WITH SOCIAL ORGANISATIONS AND CLUBS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN 1950,  
BY 1951 PARISH POPULATION

	1 - 90		91-270		271-750		751-2050		2051-5550		All Responding Parishes No. %
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
Scouts/cubs/ brownies/guides	-		14	11.6	37	24.5	43	56.6	13	65.0	107 28.4
Cadets/ATC/ Girls Training Corps	-		1	0.8	5	3.3	16	21.1	4	20.0	26 6.9
At least one youth club	1	11.1	29	23.8	67	44.7	56	73.7	16	80.0	169 44.8
Young peoples' church groups	6	66.7	82	67.2	138	92.0	75	98.7	19	95.0	320 84.9
Other young peoples' groups	1	11.1	5	4.1	16	10.7	16	21.3	10	50.0	48 12.8

TABLE 6 PARISHES WITH SOCIAL ORGANISATIONS AND CLUBS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN 1950, BY 1974 DISTRICT

	Mendip		Sedgemoor		Taunton Deane		West Somerset		Yeovil		Wansdyke		Woodspring		All Parishes	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Scouts/cubs/ brownies/guides	15	27.8	17	34.0	10	21.7	16	41.0	22	19.8	13	31.0	14	40.0	107	28.4
Cadets/ATC/ Girls training Corps	6	11.3	5	10.0	3	6.5	2	5.1	5	4.5	4	9.5	1	2.9	26	6.9
At least one youth club	20	37.0	27	54.0	24	52.2	16	40.0	41	37.3	23	54.8	18	51.4	169	44.8
Young peoples' church groups	49	90.7	45	90.0	36	78.3	32	80.0	87	79.1	39	92.9	32	91.4	320	84.9
Other young peoples' groups	4	7.5	9	18.0	5	10.9	10	25.6	10	9.0	5	11.9	5	14.3	48	12.8

more parishes had a youth club than had scouts or guides or cadets, and the vast majority of youth clubs were for both boys and girls, although some of the more populous parishes supported both mixed and single sex youth clubs. Of those parishes that did have a youth club (44.7 per cent), most (82.3 per cent) had a mixed club, and a further 3.6 per cent had both a mixed club and a boys or girls club. Twenty four parishes (14.2 per cent of those with youth clubs) had one or more of the single sex clubs. Single sex youth clubs occurred only in parishes with larger populations which presumably could provide enough children to support them.

For youth clubs as well as for scouts and guides the village hall was a popular meeting place. However, school halls were also common meeting places for youth clubs, especially in parishes with small populations. Over 23 per cent of youth clubs met in school halls, compared with only 12.5 per cent of scouts, guides and similar groups, and 23 per cent of youth clubs compared with 18 per cent of scouts or guides met in church halls. However, only 6.7 per cent of youth clubs met in 'other halls' compared with 19.3 per cent of scouts or guides or similar. These figures on the whole reflect the tendency for relatively few youth clubs to meet outside the parish in which they were cited. Only 4.2 per cent of youth clubs (5 in all) met outside the parish compared with 15 per cent of scouts or guides. Furthermore, while it was not uncommon for scouts to have their own hut, halls or huts owned and run specifically by youth clubs were probably rare. Presumably, the extent to which youth clubs were locally organised rather than part of a wider, even national, network may have had some bearing on the extent to which parishes joined together to organise them.

Young peoples' church groups were very widespread, much more so than scouts, guides, cadets or youth clubs. They occurred in nearly 85 per cent of parishes and as many as 136 parishes had a church group and no other youth organisations. As this section includes Sunday schools, however, this finding is hardly surprising, and nor is the finding that 96 per cent of the young peoples' church groups met in church halls. Parishes with larger populations were more likely to have these groups than were less well populated places (Table 5). The highest percentage of parishes with young people's church groups occurred in Mendip, Sedgemoor and Wansdyke where 90 per cent or more of the parishes had at least one such group. While the percentages were high in all districts, Taunton Deane, where 78.3 per cent of parishes had these groups, reported the lowest figure (Table 6).

A relatively small number of parishes, most of them in West Somerset and Yeovil districts, reported 'other young peoples' groups', including for example, the Boys' Brigade, the St Johns Ambulance Corps and the Sea Scouts. Only 48 rural parishes (nearly 13 per cent), the majority of them with 1951 populations over 270, reported them (Table 5). It was difficult, during coding, to decide whether to include, for example, uniformed sea scouts, in this category or as scouts or cadets. It may be advisable to combine at least the cadets and similar groups with this 'other' group. It is also possible that some of these 'other' groups were church-run and might have been better coded as church groups, although detail would then have been lost since the coding scheme allowed for 'at least one' of each type of group, masking multiple occurrences. Like the cadets, quite a high proportion of these 'other' young peoples' groups met outside the parish in which they were reported, but the church hall and village hall were overall the most popular venues for these activities.

#### **4.2 Adults' clubs and organisations**

Over 60 per cent of the rural parishes reported a British Legion branch in 1950. Over 80 per cent of the parishes with more than 750 had one, and although the

percentage was lower in parishes with fewer people, 44.4 per cent of even the least well populated places had a branch (Table 7).

There was some variation by district, with nearly three quarters of Sedgemoor parishes but fewer than half of those in West Somerset or Wansdyke having a branch (Table 8). Particularly striking was the high percentage of these groups meeting outside the parish in which they were reported - nearly 40 per cent overall - and as many as 88 per cent in parishes with fewer than 270 people. Also, as compared with adult groups of other types, a high percentage of British Legion branches met in public houses, especially in the districts of Mendip and Wansdyke. Some branches had their own halls or huts, and in West Somerset and Woodspring, in particular, branches made use of village halls.

While the British Legion is thought of very much as an organisation for men it might be noted that a number of parishes, such as Alford (Yeovil) and Baltonsborough (Mendip), had women's branches of this organisation.

Very few rural parishes had a Rotary club or Round Table in 1950 - only 7 reported one: Closworth, Curry Rivel, Langport and Somerton in Yeovil; Churchill and Winscombe in Woodspring and Doulting in Mendip. The results are not tabulated here. All these branches, except those in Langport and Winscombe, were held outside the parish reporting them. Closworth Rotary, for example, was held in Yeovil and at Curry Rivel many were 'members at Langport club'. Somerton Rotary club was also reported as being 'with Langport', meeting at Langport Town Hall. Thus it would appear that these groups were much more town-based, although some of the larger parishes combined together to provide branch activities.

The WI appeared to be slightly more widespread than the Royal British Legion in 1950, and in 6 per cent of the parishes (compared with 4 per cent having a British Legion branch only) the WI was the only adult social group reported. Nearly half the parishes (48.7 per cent) had both a WI and a British Legion branch, while about 21 per cent had neither. Nearly 67 per cent of parishes had a WI branch, and over 85 per cent of the parishes with more than 750 people had one (Table 7). Again, the percentage of less populous parishes with a WI was lower, but a third of even the parishes with 90 people or less had a branch. The areas around Frome and Axbridge were particularly well off for WI branches but in West Somerset only half the parishes had one (Table 8).

Information as to meeting place was available in 215 of the 253 parishes with a WI branch and in over three quarters of these cases (36 per cent of meetings) the WI meetings were held in halls, most commonly village halls. A further 17 per cent of meetings were held in church halls 13 per cent in school halls and 11 per cent in halls of some other type, including those run by the WI itself. Pub rooms, private houses and 'other places' were less commonly cited. Although a number of less well populated places had WI branches which met outside the parish, WIs as a whole were less likely than British Legion branches to hold meetings outside the parish, 14.9 per cent compared with 39.4 per cent of Legion branches.

WRVS groups were less commonly reported. Only 25 parishes (about 7 per cent) had one. None of these had a population smaller than 90 and in all except the very largest population size group fewer than 10 per cent of places had a WRVS branch (Table 7).

The percentage of parishes with a WRVS branch was highest in Woodspring (nearly 15 per cent) and Sedgemoor (14 per cent), (Table 8). No rural parishes in Mendip district had a WRVS branch in 1947/50. No parish in the old RDs of Dulverton, Frome, Shepton Mallet, Wellington, Wells or Wincanton had a WRVS.

TABLE 7 PARISHES WITH ADULT SOCIAL ORGANISATIONS AND CLUBS IN 1950, BY 1951 PARISH POPULATION

	1 - 90		91-270		271-750		751-2050		2051-5550		All Responding Parishes No. %
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
Royal British Legion	4	44.4	42	34.4	103	68.2	64	84.2	16	80.0	229 60.6
WI	3	33.3	57	46.7	109	72.2	67	88.2	17	85.0	253 66.9
WRVS	-	-	6	5.0	8	5.3	7	9.2	4	20.0	25 6.6
Church groups	4	44.4	48	39.3	90	60.0	58	76.3	15	75.0	215 57.0
Music, drama, listening and discussion	-	-	16	13.1	45	29.8	42	55.3	14	70.0	117 31.0
Political clubs	1	12.5	9	7.4	21	14.0	26	35.1	5	27.8	62 16.7

In only 5 cases were WRVS meeting places recorded. In 2 cases the group met in a church hall, in one case in a village hall, and in 2 cases the group was said to meet outside the parish.

Although a very large proportion of rural parishes (85 per cent) had church groups for young people, fewer parishes (57 per cent) reported adult church groups. Church groups were to be found in parishes of all size groups but of parishes of 751-2050 and 2051-5550 people about three quarters had church groups compared with smaller percentages in the parishes with smaller populations (Table 7).

The percentage of parishes with adult church groups was highest in Mendip (68.5 per cent) and lowest in West Somerset (47.5 per cent) (Table 8), perhaps a surprising result in view of the large number of parishes with church halls in West Somerset. Like the young peoples' groups, adult church groups were rarely found outside church halls.

Although 136 parishes (36 per cent) had a young people's church group and no other youth organisation, only 15 parishes (4 per cent) had an adult church group and no other adult social organisations. About 63 per cent of parishes with an adult church group also had young people's church groups. In all, over half the 376 parishes for which this information was available had both types of group while 12 per cent had neither.

Music and drama societies, listening, discussion or similar groups were found in 31 per cent of the rural parishes, although in parishes of the largest size groups and in Wansdyke and Woodspring districts they were relatively more common, (Tables 7 and 8). Information on meeting places was available in 53 parishes, less than half of those reporting such groups. Nearly all the groups for which information on meeting place is available met in halls, mostly village halls.

Political clubs were reported in 62 parishes, nearly 17 per cent of the total for which information was available. These clubs, often local branches of the Labour or Conservative Parties or of the Young Conservatives, were in existence in parishes of every size group, but were most often cited in parishes with 1951 populations greater than 750 (Table 7 gives an indication).

In Taunton Deane, 20 per cent of the parishes reported political clubs and the percentages were almost as high in Mendip, Yeovil, Wansdyke and Woodspring (Table 8). Relatively few parishes in West Somerset reported political groups and these were mostly affiliated to the Labour Party, although Exford had branches of Labour, Conservative and Liberal Parties. In Porlock, which had a Conservative club, Labour was apparently 'trying to start'.

Labour clubs were also fairly widespread in Taunton Deane district. Seven of the 9 Taunton Deane parishes with political groups reported them. Bishops Lydeard, Milverton, Norton Fitzwarren and Stoke St Gregory all had both Labour and Conservative clubs, while Combe Florey and West Bagborough reported only Labour party branches. The only Liberal club in rural parishes of this district was at Wiveliscombe where it was described as follows: 'Liberal Club (actually non political)'.

Elsewhere Conservative clubs were more common. In Mendip district, for example, there were 10 parishes with political clubs, only 2, Coleford (with Kilmersdon) and Nunney with a Labour Party Association or branch. The rest were all Conservative in affiliation. At Ashwick, Chewton Mendip, Ditchat and Pilton branches of the Young Conservatives were reported. At West Bradley the



TABLE 8 PARISHES WITH ADULT SOCIAL ORGANISATIONS AND CLUBS IN 1950, BY 1974 DISTRICT

	Mendip		Sedgemoor		Taunton Deane		West Somerset		Yeovil		Wansdyke		Woodspring		All Parishes	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Royal British Legion	33	61.1	37	74.0	30	65.2	18	45.0	68	61.3	20	47.6	23	65.7	229	60.6
WI	42	77.8	36	72.0	33	71.7	20	50.0	69	62.2	26	61.9	27	77.1	253	66.9
WRVS	-	-	7	14.0	1	2.2	2	5.0	8	7.2	2	4.8	5	14.7	25	6.6
Church groups	37	68.5	27	54.0	22	47.8	19	47.5	64	58.2	24	57.1	22	62.9	215	57.0
Music, drama listening, discussion	10	18.5	17	34.0	12	26.1	14	35.0	28	25.2	19	45.2	17	48.6	117	31.0
Political club	10	18.5	7	14.6	9	19.6	4	10.0	19	17.3	7	17.5	6	17.6	62	16.7

respondent said that 'most belong to the Conservative Party and join with other villages for occasional dances and whist drives'.

The majority of the political clubs mentioned by respondents from Yeovil parishes were also run by the Conservatives. Chaffcombe, Coombe St Nicholas, High Ham, Hinton St George, Long Sutton and Tintinhull each had a Women's Conservative Association, and at High Ham there was a Men's branch too. The social nature of many of these clubs is apparent from some of the replies, such as that for Milborne Port which had a 'Constitutional Club (fully licensed)'.

In Wansdyke only 2 Labour clubs were reported, one at Camerton and one in Publow, both coal mining areas. All the rest of those parishes in Wansdyke reporting political groups, had Conservative clubs, and all the political clubs in Woodspring were Conservative Party run.

In addition to the adult social groups individually detailed, up to six other adult organisations or groups were also coded using a multiple responses framework. These included sports clubs, social clubs, committees for the organisation of parish events, and clubs for men and women other than, for example, the WI. Also recorded here, under the category 'other', were the groups reported in Questions 21 to 24 of the 1947 questionnaire, such as Hospital Savings and National Savings groups.

Table 9 shows the frequency of other adult organisations or groups reported in the rural parishes. Overall, there were about 3 'other adult groups' per parish. Nearly 38 per cent of the 1183 responses referred to clubs for outdoor sport such as cricket, football, rifle shooting and fishing, just over one (1.20) outdoor sports club per parish, while nearly 14 per cent referred to indoor sports like skittles. With hindsight it would probably have been preferable to record sports clubs in a category of their own since they were so numerous, accounting for a total of nearly 52 per cent of the responses in this section. In addition, nearly 32 per cent of the responses were classified as 'other'. As well as the groups identified in Questions 21 to 24 of the 1947 questionnaire and referred to above, these include such diverse activities as rabbit, pig and food production clubs, gardening, beekeeping, chess clubs, craft groups (such as the smocking circle at Batcombe), wartime groups like the 'Welcome home the boys committee', and classes for needlework and dancing. In some cases the establishment of these groups would have been the result of outside intervention and their purpose was not merely social. For example, as Kempe reported in his contemporaneous study of a village in Herefordshire:

During the war an official from the Ministry of Agriculture gave a talk in Much Marcle on the advantages which a Pig Club could provide. Some members of the audience thereupon decided to form a club and there are now 50 members. A whist drive was held in order to obtain some working capital, and advantages are obtained from buying pig food in bulk with the discount for prompt payment. The Club meets once a month when members pay for their food (Kempe 1948:50 p.24).

It would clearly have been preferable to break up this last group of activities into more specialised categories, while some adult groups afforded individual treatment in the sections above - Rotary and the WRVS, for example - might have been better grouped with other activities or omitted. As things stand, some loss of information as to the types of adult groups recorded here, especially sports clubs and those reported as 'other', has occurred.

TABLE 9 OTHER ADULT GROUPS 1950

	Number	Percent of Responses	Other adult groups per parish
None	53	4.5	0.14
Mens Club	80	6.8	0.21
Womens Club	35	3.0	0.09
Social Club	15	1.3	0.04
Outdoor sport	448	37.9	1.20
Indoor sport	165	13.9	0.44
Events/committees	6	0.5	0.02
Other groups	379	32.0	1.01
Total responses	1183	100.0	3.16

375 valid cases

TABLE 10 MEETING PLACES OF OTHER ADULT GROUPS 1950

	Number	Percent of responses	Meeting places per parish
Village Hall	28	16.0	0.24
School Hall	6	3.4	0.05
Church Hall	12	6.9	0.10
Other Hall	8	4.6	0.07
Pub room	103	58.9	0.87
Other place	5	2.9	0.04
Private house	1	0.6	0.01
Outside parish	12	6.9	0.10
TOTAL	175	100.0	1.47

119 valid cases

As Table 9 shows, a small number of responses, 6.8 per cent and 3 per cent respectively, referred to men's and women's clubs, and only 1 per cent of responses (15 clubs) referred to social clubs. Possibly the large number of parishes with other clubs fulfilling a social function (particularly the British Legion, WI and church groups, which were widespread) militated against the development of additional social clubs in these parishes.

In West Somerset, which compared with other districts had relatively few parishes with a WI or British Legion branch or a church group, 10 parishes had a men's club, 8 a women's club and 6 in all reported social clubs. At Culbone in the parish of Oare, for example, there were two social clubs in the Ashley Combe estate belonging to Lord Knebworth: 'His lordship has a fully licensed residential club at Ashley Lodge and another at Culbone stables (which is nonresidential) for farmers, with hundreds of members (fully licensed)'.

Additionally, very few annual or other events committees were recorded in the 1950 data set, and this is in contrast to the finding for 1980. However, that active committees were in existence in many of the parishes is indicated by the responses to the question on, for example, halls, and on dances and whist drives described later.

Information on meeting place is available for only 15 per cent of the other adult groups reported (Table 10). By far the most popular meeting place was the pub room, with almost one mention per responding parish, which accommodated about 59 per cent of the groups for which this information was available, followed by the village hall, cited in about 16 per cent of the cases.

Examination of the types of other adult groups by meeting places suggests that most of the activities taking place in pub rooms were indoor sports such as skittles. (However, not all the skittles alleys were in pubs. At Kingsdon there was a skittle alley 'not attached to a public house' and owned and managed by its own committee). Clubs for both men and women were most likely to meet in village halls. Although the pub room was the most commonly cited meeting place in parishes of all population sizes this was not the case in all districts, since in West Somerset no other adult groups for which this information was available met there, and in that district village halls were particularly popular.

Some of the men's clubs were more ambitious than others. For example, it is interesting to note that in Compton Dando, as the respondent commented, 'there was a 'men's club' held in the village hall until this year. The opening of a pub put a stop to it as the men prefer to play darts there'. In contrast, the men's club at Kingston St Mary was not simply a substitute for a public house. It had its own rented premises with a license and was open every night from 7 to 10 pm. The club ran two league skittles teams and a league whist team and was planning a miniature rifle range.

In general, social clubs tended to be found in parishes which also had a range of other social organisations. Stockland, in Sedgemoor district, provides an example of a particularly sociable parish:

We have a very flourishing branch of the Conservative Association, also a branch of young Conservatives who go to Nether Stowey for their meetings. Also a very lively branch of the Young Farmers Club - I think they meet in Stogursey but the branch was started in Stockland. We also have a cricket club and Combwich boys come and play on our ground... we are very much alive in our social activities'.

## 5. Parish Councils

In section I (Miscellaneous) of the 1947 questionnaire Bracey asked 'Is there an officially constituted Parish Council?', and responses have been recorded using a yes/no scheme.

A small number of places which had no parish council, and which have been coded as 'No', did in fact have a parish meeting. Examples are Exmoor, Kilve, Oare and Nettlecombe in West Somerset. In the case of Nettlecombe, at least, this 'seldom met'. With hindsight, it would have been preferable to distinguish in the coding between parish councils and meetings, since the results in their present form are likely to be slightly in error.

It seems that nearly 83 per cent of parishes had a Parish Council in 1947 (Table 11). There was some variation by parish population. While all those places with 1951 populations greater than 750 and nearly 97 per cent of those with between 270 and 750 had one, only just over half (53 per cent) of places with 270 people or fewer, including 44.4 per cent of the very smallest places, did so.

Ninety per cent of the parishes in Sedgemoor and well over 80 per cent of those in Mendip, Yeovil, Wansdyke and Woodspring had Parish Councils in 1947. However, rather fewer parishes in Taunton Deane and West Somerset did so. In West Somerset it appears that over a quarter of the rural parishes had no parish council, but since a few of these had parish meetings the results are probably an underrepresentation of the true picture.

While no specific questions were asked about the activities of parish councils, other parts of the 1947 questionnaire gave some indication of these. In particular, parish councils were often responsible for efforts to raise funds to provide social or sporting facilities and their fund raising efforts frequently took the form of dances and whist drives, as the following section shows.

## 6. Dances and Whist Drives in 1947

In the 1947 questionnaire, under Section H, Social Organisations, Bracey asked whether there were regular dances or whist drives in the parish, by whom they were sponsored and where and how frequently they were held. In 1950, in the section Miscellaneous Social, he asked whether there were whist drives, ballroom dances or traditional dances at least once a month. The information coded is that for 1947 and includes only whether or not regular dances and whist drives were held, together with where they were held. Bracey's use of the word 'regular' is immediately thrown into question. As one respondent commented, 'though not "regular", dances and whist drives are very frequently held'. In general, information as to the frequency of these activities is omitted, although a distinction is made between 'regular' and 'occasional' events since many respondents did this. Details on sponsorship are also omitted from the detailed analysis, although this is referred to in passing and in general discussion.

About 42 per cent of the parishes had regular dances in 1947, and a further 16 per cent had dances occasionally. There is little information as to the type of dances held, although at Withypool, for example, folk dances were popular in the winter months. None of the least well populated parishes had dances, and only 18 per cent of those with between 91 and 270 people did so (Table 12). In parishes with larger populations dances were more likely to be regular than occasional.

TABLE 11 PARISHES WITH PARISH COUNCILS IN 1947

Size group:	By population (1951)		By 1974 district	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1 - 90	4	44.4	Mendip 43	82.7
91-270	62	53.4	Sedgemoor 45	90.0
271-750	145	96.7	Taunton Deane 36	78.3
751-2050	76	100.0	West Somerset 28	73.7
2051-5550	20	100.0	Yeovil 90	83.3
			Wansdyke 36	85.7
			Woodspring 29	82.9
All Parishes	307	82.7	307	82.7
7 missing cases				

TABLE 12 PARISHES WITH DANCES AND WHIST DRIVES IN 1947, BY 1951 POPULATION

	0 - 90		91-270		271-750		751-2050		2051-5550		All Responding Parishes
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No. %
Dances - regular	-	-	22	18.0	68	45.0	51	68.9	17	85.0	158 42.0
- occasional	-	-	23	18.9	33	21.9	6	8.1	-	-	62 16.5
Total with dances	-	-	45	36.9	101	66.9	57	77.0	17	85.0	220 58.5
Whist drives - regular	3	33.3	43	35.2	85	56.3	58	77.3	16	80.0	205 54.4
- occasional	1	11.1	26	21.3	31	20.5	6	8.0	1	5.0	65 17.2
Total with whist drives	4	44.4	69	56.5	116	76.8	64	85.3	17	85.0	270 71.6

TABLE 13 PARISHES WITH DANCES AND WHIST DRIVES IN 1947, BY 1974 DISTRICT

	Mendip		Sedgemoor		Taunton Deane		West Somerset		Yeovil		Wansdyke		Woodspring		All Responding Parishes	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Dances - regular	20	37.0	22	44.0	24	52.2	15	37.5	33	29.7	22	53.7	22	64.7	158	42.0
- occasional	12	22.2	10	20.0	7	15.2	11	27.5	19	17.1	3	7.3	-	-	62	16.5
Total with dances	32	59.2	32	64.0	31	67.4	26	65.0	52	46.8	25	61.0	22	64.7	220	58.5
Whist drives																
- regular	17	31.5	27	54.0	26	56.5	18	45.0	60	54.1	28	68.3	29	82.9	205	54.4
- occasional	13	24.1	10	20.0	11	23.9	11	27.5	17	15.3	3	7.3	-	-	65	17.2
Total with whist drives	30	55.6	37	74.0	37	80.4	29	72.5	77	69.4	31	75.6	29	82.9	270	71.6



Well over half the parishes in all districts except Yeovil had dances either regularly or occasionally (Table 13). In Yeovil almost 30 per cent of parishes had regular dances and 17 per cent had them occasionally but just over 53 per cent had none. All districts had more parishes with regular dances than with occasional ones, and this was particularly true in Taunton Deane and Wansdyke, while in Woodspring no parishes reported occasional dances and 65 per cent had regular events.

In the majority of cases (and regardless of the population size of the parish) both regular and occasional dances were held in village halls. In the case of regular dances, the church hall was the next most popular venue (15.2 per cent of cases), followed by other halls and school halls. Parishes with occasional dances were more likely to hold these in school halls than in church halls.

Other venues - the pub room, private house or some other place - were cited only rarely. At Lydford on Fosse for example the landlord of the Cross Keys ran fortnightly dances, while at Mells, also in Mendip district, dances sponsored by the 'Recreational Supporters Club' or by the Labour Party were held one a month in a barn. A barn was also used at Cudworth (Yeovil) where dances were held perhaps twice a year.

In 1947 54.4 per cent of parishes held whist drives regularly (Table 12) and a further 17 per cent, even those with small populations held them occasionally.

The percentage of parishes reporting whist drives was highest in Woodspring (Table 13) - 83 per cent - and there all the whist drives were said to be held regularly. In Taunton Deane about 80 per cent of the parishes had whist drives, and in Wansdyke about three quarters of the parishes had them. Whist appeared less popular in the parishes of Mendip where only just over half of them reported this activity.

Information on where the whist drives were held is available for 218 of the 270 parishes reporting them. The village hall was again the most popular venue. Regular whist drives were also often held in church halls, school halls and other halls, although occasional whist drives were more often held in school halls than in halls of other types. In contrast to dances, whist drives were sometimes held in private houses.

Dance and whist drives clearly held an important place in village social life. Nearly 55 per cent of the rural parishes surveyed by Bracey in 1947 had both dances and whist drives at least occasionally and a relatively high proportion, nearly 38 per cent of parishes, held both types of entertainment regularly. To Bracey these were telling indicators of social activity.

The sponsorship of both dances and whist drives varied widely - from individuals (Mr and Mrs Pember at Berkeley) to organisations (the Church Entertainment Committee at Buckland Dinham, the Young Conservatives at Chewton Mendip, the Miners Welfare Committee at Chilcompton, the Pigeon Club at Holcombe, and the Nursing Association, Cricket Club and British Legion at Doultling, to name but a few). In a great number of places these activities provided not only entertainment but an important source of income for village projects, particularly new halls or playing fields. For example,

Dances were held in Compton Dando quite regularly last winter. They were organised by various people for different reasons, eg. to raise money for a children's outing, to raise money for a pavilion for the cricket club ...

The respondent for Buckland Dinham put it in a nutshell:

The dances and whist drives are usually arranged to support church funds when the need for money arises. As the church is usually in need of money they are fairly frequent.

Dances and whist drives were clearly activities for the winter months. Indeed, at Long Sutton, whist drives were 'to be given up during the summer until haymaking and harvesting are over'. At a more general level it can be said that the winter was the time when most halls had their heaviest use.

During the winter months the village hall [at Carhampton] is opened every night (except Sundays) for the males of the village over 14 for games etc. such as billiards, table tennis, darts - unless the hall has been booked for a dance, meeting or whist drive.

And winter was the time at which parishes which did not have a hall felt this lack most keenly. At Godney, where the parish council was pressing for the use of the redundant school building as a venue for dances and other social events, 'previous to the war, dances etc. were held on an average monthly during the six winter months'. The respondent went on, 'as I have pointed out to the authorities concerned, the use of the school for the village is the most important factor for the encouragement of social amenities, especially during the winter'.

Also striking was the popularity of dances and whist drives. People often travelled long distances to attend them. At Oare, for example, there were 'very large dances, socials and whist parties...folks come from all over the moor'.

## **7. Summary and Discussion**

This report of social and recreational facilities and organisations existing in Somerset in the immediate postwar period is based on a set of questions designed initially to provide an input to Bracey's calculations of indices of social provision and of centrality. In fact scarcely any of this information was used by Bracey, and it is clear that the information collected instead provides a glimpse of rural social life over a wide geographical area.

To summarise, the majority of parishes had at least one hall or other public meeting place, most commonly a village hall, and over a third had more than one. Church halls were also numerous, and church organisations played an important part in running halls of almost every type. Plans for new halls, and for the designation of additional playing fields and other areas of open space, were often a gesture to mark the end of the war. Dances and whist drives, held at least occasionally in three quarters of the survey parishes, were popular ways of fund raising for these and other causes.

Social clubs and organisations have been considered in two sections, those for young people and those for adults. However, a further division, not simply a product of the research design, is appropriate - that between males and females, since many of the groups were for boys or girls, men or women.

For young people, youth clubs were more numerous than, for example, scouts or guides, and were often mixed. Furthermore they tended to be organised on a parish basis while scout packs, for example, drew members from a number of different places. Church organisations for young people were more common than those for adults but both types usually met in church halls. Of the other adult groups, the WI and Royal British Legion were most widespread, the WI meeting

mainly in halls within the parish in which the branch was reported and the British Legion more often outside the parish, occasionally in a village hall or a pub. The various sporting activities also emerged as a major feature in the social life of the rural parishes, although the reporting of them under 'other' adult organisations threatened to obscure their significance. Almost a third of the parishes had some kind of music or drama society, or a listening or discussion group, and parishes with larger populations had political clubs, mostly branches of the major political parties. Nearly 83 per cent of the parishes had a parish council or parish meeting.

Several themes seem to run through these results. One is the presence of constant reminders that the research was conducted straight after the end of the war. A second, relevant to current debates on the possible 'clustering' of rural settlements as a planning strategy, is the common tendency for parishes to work together in groups to provide both social clubs and facilities of other kinds, and a number of examples illustrate this:

The parish of Alford is very small, and in many cases Lovington, (which is another small parish about one and a half miles away) and Alford work together eg. Women's Institutes, cricket club, youth movement, and the school forms a centre, as Lovington, Alford and Hornblotton each have a third share in it ... Castle Cary is another centre, and in many things Alford is grouped with Castle Cary eg. British Legion, Red Cross, etc..

Similarly,

Thurlbear, Orchard Portman and Stoke St Mary are run as one village. The Rector is in charge of the three parishes. Stoke St Mary has the hall, cricket club, public and police station...

In some groupings of parishes one village stands out as a centre for the surrounding area. At Batcombe the respondent commented:

The village is a centre for many others. The youth club has members from Wanstrow and Upton Noble and our dances attract 200, with 30-40 at dancing class.

At Bickenhall, the parish room served the adjoining parishes of Staple Fitzpaine and Curland, all of which were under the Rector of Staple Fitzpaine. This was a sociable district:

There is a vigorous Women's Institute held in the parish room which is attended by the adjoining parishes and is known as Bickenhall and District Women's Institute. There has recently been formed a Drama Club. They have only given one performance, but with great success. The British Legion is going strong and its headquarters are at Staple; again this is for the three parishes, as is also the youth club which is a mixed one for boys and girls. Dances and whist drives are held in the Parish Room at fairly regular intervals and there is a wonderful spirit of cooperation between all the inhabitants of the parishes to make every event a success.

Thirdly, while some parishes were particularly lively others struggled to provide the most basic social activities. Problems arose, for example, in parishes with a widely scattered rural populations.

Simonsbath [in the parish of Exmoor] is not sufficiently populated to form any societies - there could be a community centre provided that it could be organised so all ages could be catered for. There is decided interest and a 'latent' talent in music, drama and dancing, but regular meetings are difficult owing to long journeys and difficult country, and very rough weather experienced.

Transport to social activities was a problem in certain parishes, but rural residents seemed willing to undertake quite difficult journeys for the sake of an evening out. The comment from Otterford was typical of several:

Dances are frequently (once a month or so) held...at the village hall which is in Bishopswood. The young people walk or cycle up to 5 miles to dances and the Evening Institute which is held at Otterford School.

Above all, although this may be to some extent a result of Bracey's choice of respondents, the role of key individuals in promoting and organising various activities and the ways in which this role appeared to be changing in the late 1940s are apparent. There is evidence from a number of the questionnaires that vicars, in particular, were expected to provide social leadership. At Enmore the respondent reported that a new rector had just arrived: 'I feel sure that he will try to improve the social amenities of the parish. The late Rector was 85 years of age and had poor health', while both Winsham and Weston in Gordano lamented the loss of their vicars.

The Vicar of [Winsham] parish died in February 1947 aged 84. A new one has been offered, and has accepted, the living, and it is hoped the social life of the village will revive with his coming. The youth club and boy scouts once flourished but have lapsed for want of leaders.

Weston in Gordano's respondent commented in a similar vein:

During the war, under the late Rector who died in October 1945, the village was united. There were ARP services, fire service with trailer pump, special constables and members of Nursing and St. Johns Ambulance Brigade who were attached to Portishead. Had he lived various youth services were to be revived. The village lacks a leader now.

For their part, vicars, and to a certain extent headteachers, were aware of their responsibilities. Bracey's contact for West Bradley had previously been the headmistress of Baltonsborough School, 'where for 18 years' [she states frankly] 'I took the lead in the social life of the village'. In addition to setting up a hall fund she 'formed a very strong branch of the Women's Legion which is run on the lines of a social club and WI combined'. She was obviously about to start on West Bradley. As she went on, 'West Bradley has none of these up to the present and shows very little desire for social life of any kind'. However, 'I am still Chairman of the Baltonsborough committees and hope to interest West Bradley in the same'.

Several of these pillars of the community seemed to be battling to inject some social spirit into their respective parishes. The Vicar of Cothelstone wrote at some length:

When I first came here I tried to form a Sunday School but attendances (of 13 children) were so spasmodic with no support from parents that I gave it up. My predecessor had no success either. Apart from the whist evenings which are popular I think the bulk of the inhabitants are quite content with their radios, an occasional 'talkie' at Taunton, and the men enjoy a 'glass' at the 2 or 3 pubs in Bishops Lydeard.

The role of local landowners or squires in patronising the social life of a parish has already been touched upon. In many cases the provision of a suitable building or room was perhaps more usual than close involvement in the organisation of activities, but at Butleigh Wootton, at least, the parishioners seemed particularly dependent on the local squire:

Butleigh Wootton estate is still owned by Lord St Audries and comprises 5 farms and about 30 cottages, with three privately owned houses. It is quite possible that before long some village activities will be started but for so many years the populace has depended on the squire and the inhabitants have not yet found their feet since the squire died and the court has been empty...

Such arrangements were obviously not very satisfactory. There were signs of change and in some parishes both the tendency to rely on the church and the longstanding patronage by the local gentry were being called into question, while at the same time broader national changes were having an effect locally. A long letter from Crowcombe illustrates the mood of change, as this extract shows:

With modern transport and farmers etc. having cars it has tended [sic] to end this idea of a village community around the local church. Too, the welfare state has tended to bring to an end that link between the village folk and landlords whereby charities, gifts of coal/blankets used to bring people together. I think this is a good thing.

## **8. Concluding points**

This paper has described the voluminous and detailed information on social and recreational facilities and social life provided by Bracey's surveys undertaken in 1947 and 1950. The major objective of the present study, however, is the use of this information, and that on services described in an earlier working paper (Appendix 6), as the basis for a comparison with the findings of a 1980 re-survey. The information has been extracted and examined in such a way as to facilitate this comparison. With hindsight, a number of changes in the way in which some of the variables have been dealt with might be suggested. It is possible, too, that some of the detail which has been passed over in this account may yet prove to be of value, perhaps in a more sociological investigation. Certainly this exercise has thrown up a number of themes which beg further investigation.

For the moment, in spite of the difficulties encountered in attempting a fresh examination of this historical survey material, it has been possible both to establish a data base whose strengths and weaknesses in various applications may be gauged and at the same time to build up a picture of social life in rural Somerset far beyond that revealed by Bracey's own more specialised analyses.

APPENDIX 8 THE 1980 QUESTIONNAIRE AND LETTER TO  
RESPONDENTS

University of Bristol  
Department of Geography  
Rural Services Study 1980

Name of village.....

Investigator.....

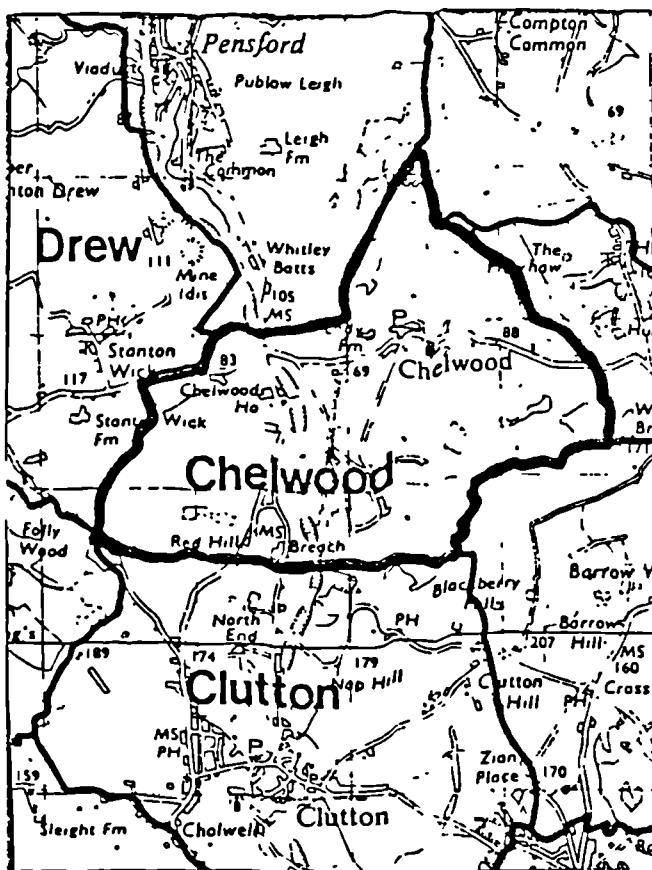
Name of parish.....

.....

District.....

.....

MAP OF THE PARISH OF..... Scale 1:50 000



IMPORTANT : PLEASE TAKE A FEW MINUTTS TO READ THROUGH THE QUESTIONNAIRE  
BEFORE STARTING TO ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

1.

POSTAL SERVICES

Please  
tick  
one box

1.1 Is there a Post Office in the village ?

YES	
NO	

1.2 If there is NO Post Office

(i) Has there previously been one  
in the village ?

YES	
NO	

(ii) If so, about when did it close ? 19

--	--

1.3 Please give details of any special postal arrangements in  
the village. (eg. post master visits from another village;  
postman collects mail from houses as well as delivering;  
postman sells stamps; other shop sells stamps).....

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

1.4 How many public telephones are there in the village ?

(Include pay phones in, for example, pubs or shops as  
well as those in telephone kiosks)

Please give  
approximate  
number

--

Please do  
not write  
in this  
column

--	--	--	--

--

--

--	--

--	--

--

2.

TRANSPORT

2.1 Is the village served by a regular bus service (buses stopping within a half mile of the village) ?

Please tick

YES	<input type="checkbox"/>
NO	<input type="checkbox"/>

2.2 If YES, name of bus operator(s) :

OPERATOR	PLEASE TICK
Western National Omnibus Co.Ltd.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bristol Omnibus Co.Ltd.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Private stage service bus operator(s) - please name .....	<input type="checkbox"/>
.....	
.....	
.....	

2.3 Is there a coach hire service in the village ?

(Please tick one box)

YES	<input type="checkbox"/>
NO	<input type="checkbox"/>

2.4 Is there a car hire or taxi service in the village ? (Please tick one box)

YES	<input type="checkbox"/>
NO	<input type="checkbox"/>

2.5 Please give details of any special local transport arrangements (eg.voluntary car sharing scheme;minibus scheme;hospital car service;use of school or works buses by the public).....

.....  
 .....  
 .....  
 .....

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



3.

GARAGES

3.1 How many garages are there in the village ?

☐

None

☐

One

☐

More than one  
(Please give  
number)

☐ ☐

3.2 If 'one' or 'more than one', do they provide any of the  
following services ? (Please tick box if YES)

Petrol sales

☐

Vehicle  
sales

☐

Motor vehicle  
repairs

☐

Repairs to  
agricultural  
machinery

☐

Other services  
(eg. vehicle hire;  
grocery sales;  
paraffin supply) -  
please list.....

☐

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

☐  
☐  
☐  
☐  
☐  
☐

3.3 If there is now NO garage in the village, have there previously  
been any ? (Please tick)

YES

☐

NO

☐
☐

Last one closed about

19

☐ ☐

(Year)

☐ ☐

4.

PS

4.1 Are there any shops in the village ?

Please give  
number

4.2 If YES, please record each shop and  
the goods or services it provides.

SHOP (Name if known)	GOODS/SERVICES (Please tick)																				
	Groceries	Dairy prod.	Meat	Fish	Veg/Fruit	Bread	Off sales	News/confec tobacco	Cafe/rest/ take away	Chemist	Clothing	Footwear	Shoe repair	Hardware	Electrical	Jewellery/ leather/sports	Antiques/craft gifts	Hairdresser	Laundry/ laundrette	Coal	Others
1. Post Office (if any)																					
2.																					
3.																					
4.																					
5.																					
6.																					
7.																					
8.																					
9.																					
10.																					
Others (eg.street market; community shop; charity shop; farm stall) Please give details ..... ..... ..... .....																					

EXTRA SHEETS PROVIDED IF REQUIRED

5.

4.3 Have any shops in the village closed in recent years ?  
(Please tick one box)

YES	<input type="checkbox"/>
NO	<input type="checkbox"/>

☐

4.4 If YES, about when did they close ?

	NUMBER	TYPE OF SHOPS CLOSED	HAVE ANY REOPENED AS SHOPS SELLING OTHER GOODS ?
Closed in last 4 years	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Closed 5 - 9 years ago	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Closed more than 10 yrs ago	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

☐ ☐
☐ ☐
☐ ☐

SHOPPING VISITS TO OTHER CENTRES

To which main centre (or centres) outside the village  
do local people go to do their weekly shopping ?

5.1 Those using public transport..... (Name town/  
..... village)

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

5.2 Those going by car..... (Name town/  
..... village)

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

6.

TRAVELLING SHOPS

6.1 We should like to know something about the travelling shops which visit the village. Please use the table below to indicate the type of goods sold, the frequency of visits and, if known, the name of the town or village in which the service is based.

This list may act as a reminder :

Groceries/fresh vegetables & fruit/meat/fish/bread/milk & dairy products/ironmongery/paraffin/fish & chips/etc.

TRADESMAN (Name if known)	GOODS/SERVICES	FREQUENCY OF VISITS (eg. daily,weekly)	TOWN OR VILLAGE OF ORIGIN (If known)
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			

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7.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

7.1 How many of the following professional services have premises in the village ? (Give details of part time or mobile services, but please don't count professional people you know of who happen to live in the village but work only elsewhere.)

TYPE OF SERVICE	PLEASE GIVE NUMBER
Banks	
Building Societies	
Solicitors	
Accountants	
Estate Agents/Auctioneers	
Veterinary Surgeons	
Others (please specify)	

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

PUBLIC FACILITIES

8.1 Does the village have any of the following ?

FACILITY	PLEASE GIVE NUMBER
Church/Place of worship	
Public house/Hotel	
Guest house	
Cinema	
Police station/Resident village policeman	
Fire station	
Branch library	

8.2 Has the village suffered closures of any of these facilities  
in the last 10 years ?

Please tick

YES	
NO	

8.3 If YES, please give details. (Include if you can the approximate  
date (or dates) of the closure(s) and the present use of the  
building(s) if this is appropriate.)

.....  
 .....  
 .....  
 .....

☐
☐
☐
☐
☐
☐
☐
☐

9.

HEALTH SERVICES

9.1 Does the village have any of the following health services ?

		TICK
Cottage hospital		<input type="checkbox"/>
Other hospital (please specify).....		<input type="checkbox"/>
Health centre		<input type="checkbox"/>
Doctor's surgery (other than the above - include part time)		<input type="checkbox"/>
(a) With dispensary		<input type="checkbox"/>
(b) Without dispensary		<input type="checkbox"/>
Other clinic (eg. infant welfare - please specify).....		<input type="checkbox"/>
..... held at.....		<input type="checkbox"/>
.....every.....(eg.week,month)		<input type="checkbox"/>
Dental surgery (include part time, but please don't count the school dental service)		<input type="checkbox"/>
Optician (include part time)	Please tick if he has own surgery in the village	<input type="checkbox"/>
	and/or makes home visits	<input type="checkbox"/>
	and/or attends clinic	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chiropodist (include part time)	Please tick if he has own surgery in the village	<input type="checkbox"/>
	and/or makes home visits	<input type="checkbox"/>
	and/or attends clinics	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dispensing chemist		<input type="checkbox"/>
Other health services or special health arrangements locally		<input type="checkbox"/>
.....		<input type="checkbox"/>
.....		<input type="checkbox"/>
.....		<input type="checkbox"/>

10.

EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

10.1 What educational facilities are there in the village ?

FACILITY	PLEASE TICK
Pre-school playgroup / 'Mothers & Toddlers' Group	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nursery school (a) Run by Local Authority	<input type="checkbox"/>
(b) Privately organised	<input type="checkbox"/>
Primary School (please name)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Secondary School (please name)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Preparatory / Public School (please name)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sixth form college / Tertiary College (please name)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Further Educational Establishment (eg. agricultural college; field study centre - please name )	<input type="checkbox"/>
Adult Education classes (eg. WEA - include both day and evening classes)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other educational facilities - please specify	<input type="checkbox"/>



11.

COMMUNITY MEETING PLACES				
11.1 What community meeting places are there in the village ?				
FACILITY	IF IN USE			IF CLOSED
	NAME OF OWNERSHIP OR MANAGEMENT BODY	FREQUENCY OF USE (eg daily, weekly)	ACTIVITIES HELD (Include social events, sports and also clinics, educational uses etc - please list)	Year closed & present use of the building
Village hall or Community Centre				
School hall (public use)				
Church hall/ Chapel Room				
Other public meeting rooms eg. Scout Hut, WI Hall, pub room please name				

## 12.

RECREATION FACILITIES AND PUBLIC OPEN SPACE

12.1 Does the village have any of the following ?

FACILITY	PLEASE TICK
Village recreation ground/playing field	<input type="checkbox"/>
School playing field(available for public use)	<input type="checkbox"/>
School playing field (school use only)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Works playing field(available for public use)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Works playing field (works use only)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tennis courts (available for public use)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Outdoor bowls green	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sports pavilion (available for public use)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Skittles alley	<input type="checkbox"/>
Allotments	<input type="checkbox"/>
Common land/Village green	<input type="checkbox"/>
Public Park (distinct from the above)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Water amenities available to the public (eg.swimming pool; lake for fishing or boating - please specify) ..... .....	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
Other specialised recreation facilities (eg.separate football pitch;childrens' play equipment;squash courts;riding school - please specify) ..... ..... ..... .....	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>

CLUBS AND ASSOCIATIONS13.1 What clubs and associations are there in the village ?

CLUB OR ASSOCIATION	PLEASE TICK	WHERE USUALLY HELD (eg village hall; private house)
<u>FOR ADULTS</u>		
Womens' Institute		
WRVS (including 'Meals on Wheels')		
Royal British Legion		
Rotary or Round Table		
Church or Chapel Groups (eg. Mothers' Union)		
Drama/Music Clubs (include choirs)		
Old Age Pensioners' clubs (include Luncheon clubs)		
Political Clubs		
Amenity or Conservation Groups		
Parent Teacher Association		
Other adults' groups or associations, including Sports and Social Clubs, fete committees etc - please list..... ..... ..... .....		
<u>FOR YOUNG PEOPLE</u>		
Youth Clubs		
Scouts/Cubs/Guides/Brownies		
Cadets		
Young Farmers Club		
Other young peoples' clubs or associations - please list..... ..... ..... .....		

14.

## INDUSTRY AND EMPLOYMENT

We should also like to know something about local industry and employment.

14.1 Please list as many of the firms situated in the village as you can.  
(You need not count places where local people work if these are outside the village)

NAME OF FIRM	TYPE OF BUSINESS

14.2 Any comments you might wish to make about the local employment situation would be most welcome. Please use this space to record them.....


[illegible]

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15.

- 15.1 Have any new houses been built in the village over the past 10 years ?

Please tick one box

None	Less than 10	Between 10 & 20	More than 20
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

☐

- 15.2 Please give brief details of the types of houses built .....

.....  
 .....  
 .....

☐ ☐

- 16.1 Are there any voluntary self-help schemes operating locally which provide additional services to the community ? (You need not include any you have already mentioned) .....

.....  
 .....  
 .....

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- 17.1 Do you consider that any of the facilities listed above are at all likely to close during the next 2 years ? If so, please give details .....

.....  
 .....

☐ ☐

- 17.2 What additional community facility is most needed in the village ?

.....  
 .....  
 .....

☐ ☐

- 18.1 What are the most serious problems in the village ?.....

.....  
 .....  
 .....  
 .....

☐ ☐ ☐

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP

UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL

TELEPHONE 24161  
Extension 833

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY  
UNIVERSITY ROAD  
BRISTOL  
BS8 1SS

October 1980

I wonder if you would be kind enough to help us in a study which we are undertaking in the Department of Geography at Bristol University.

In our research, which is funded by the Social Science Research Council, we are following up the work of Dr H.E. Bracey, who between 1947 and 1951 carried out a detailed survey of rural parishes in Somerset (now Somerset and south Avon). Bracey's objectives, set out in his letter to those taking part in his study, were to discover

...'the standard of provision of public utility services,  
the scope of commercial facilities and professional  
services, and the extent to which social organisations  
have been able to withstand the shock of modern forces.'

In carrying out his pioneering study, Bracey could have had little idea of the full impact of those 'modern forces' in the years to come. As we are all aware, many rural parishes have lost schools, shops, garages and chemists and suffered a decline in transport services, despite substantial population growth in some areas. Our study represents an attempt to monitor these changes and to collect up-to-date information about services and social activities.

Over the last few months we have been gathering this information for south Avon, and we now wish to go on to record all the services and organisations in each parish of Somerset. We are aware that many parishes contain more than one village, however, and we are anxious not to lose the distinctions between these, while also recording services which lie outside the main villages. We should therefore be most grateful if you could fill in one of the attached questionnaires for each village in the parish of \_\_\_\_\_ that is,

\_\_\_\_\_ as shown on the map, making a note of any more scattered services such as isolated garages or pubs in the parish. Please feel free to ask friends for assistance in completing the questionnaire if you are unable to answer all of it.

It would help us very much if you could return the completed forms as promptly as you can, and certainly by Monday 1st December, using the stamped addressed envelope provided. Meanwhile, if you would like further information about our study, please don't hesitate to contact me by letter or phone at the above address. As you will see, the information we are asking for is not of a confidential nature, but is of a type which would be very difficult to obtain without the involvement of people like yourself with a close knowledge of a local area.

In our study we are working closely with the Community Council for Somerset, to whom the information will be of considerable help, augmenting their own Community Facilities Survey carried out last year. We hope that our findings will go some way towards improving our understanding of rural life and contribute to the work of the Community Council in safeguarding rural services.

Thank you in anticipation of your help.  
Yours sincerely

Rural Services Study

Directors : Professor Peter Haggett  
Dr Michael Morgan  
Research Associate : Liz Mills

## The Somerset Structure Plan - Can it help rural areas?

The first issue of "THATCH" underlined the problem of declining rural services and drew attention to those people most affected by it - the elderly, the young, the car-less and the less affluent. In addition, the Association of District Councils' recent publication, "Rural Recovery - Strategy for Survival", has indicated that deprivation in rural areas is as severe as that experienced in inner city areas but not so readily identifiable and, hence, tends to be ignored.

Given the complexity of these problems, what action can be taken to improve conditions in rural areas? The restriction upon resources will limit the scope for action, but the proposed Structure Plan settlement policy is being designed to tackle these problems.

This policy recognises that certain small towns and larger villages at present offer a range of industrial, commercial and other employment, together with shopping and professional services to serve their surrounding rural areas. These will be encouraged to function as 'MAIN RURAL CENTRES', providing the focal points for new development and facilities. This should help them to continue to serve surrounding rural areas. Existing policies in respect of housing, employment, transportation and services will be applied as a matter of priority.

There are also other villages offering a more limited range of services and facilities. Many of these are at present losing services or facilities, or are finding them difficult to maintain, even when the village has received recent housing development. Consideration is being given to designating some of these villages as 'LOCAL RURAL CENTRES' where emphasis would be given in planning policies to the maintenance of existing shops, services and facilities; and development which supports this function would be encouraged.

These two categories of rural centre will establish priorities in the fight to maintain services and facilities. There are, of course, many other villages offering at least a shop, school and post office. Centres of this nature will be categorised as 'VILLAGES' and within them some new development will usually be permitted. Attention will be given to the way in which the development is likely to meet local needs and avoid increasing local problems.

Previous County Council publications have identified the many problems in Somerset's rural areas:- the in-migration of retired people; the lack of employment opportunities and out-migration of the young;

general inaccessibility and lack of mobility; decreasing levels of provision of shops and community facilities; and the increasing costs of providing essential utility services like sewerage.

This summer the County Council will be publishing for public comment the Structure Plan's Draft Written Statement which will not only contain the proposed settlement policy mentioned already but also policies covering a wide range of individual topics under headings such as housing, employment, industrial development, shopping, transportation, mineral working, countryside, and conservation. The same document will also describe the implications for Local Plans (to be prepared by District Councils within the framework of the overall strategy contained in the Structure Plan).

To set the proposed policies for rural areas into perspective they must be read alongside policies and proposals for urban areas whose problems, though different, are no less intense. The larger population of urban areas will inevitably draw off the greater part of any resources to become available in the 15 year Plan period.

Should any readers require more information about the Structure Plan, please write to this address:

County Planning Officer,  
Planning Department: SP.,  
Somerset County Council,  
County Hall,  
TAUNTON, TA1 1JY

or telephone Taunton 2451, Ext. 701 (Tony Locke and Ralph Willoughby-Foster).

To assist Somerset County Council's research into this subject, we are circulating a questionnaire to all readers in Somerset asking for information on local services: including shops, offices, health and sports facilities and local organisations. The results of this survey will be published in future editions of "THATCH". It is proposed to undertake this survey on a regular basis and over time the results will indicate the extent to which rural deprivation is a growing problem, requiring a review of Structure Plan policies.

We are particularly interested to receive a completed questionnaire from a representative of every Parish Council in Somerset.

Other readers of THATCH may prefer to answer only the back page of this questionnaire Nos. 10 - 15), leaving the factual listings of facilities to their Parish Council.

# Community Facilities Survey

Village/Town .....

How many shops are there in your village? (A shop can be entered in more than one category.)

TYPE OF SHOP	NUMBER	NUMBER OF OPEN ALL YEAR SHOPS eg: Closed in Winter
Grocers and Provision Dealers		
Dairymen		
Butchers		
Greengrocers, Fruitlers		
Bakers		
Off-Licences		
Other Food		
Confectioners/Tobacconists/Reveragents		
Clothing/Footwear		
Household Goods/Hardware		
Cheists		
Jewellery/Leather/Sports		
Antiques/Gift Shop/Crafts		
General Stores (Food and Non-Food)		
Other Non-Food Shops		
Hairdressers		
Cafe/Take-Away/Restaurant		
Motor Traders/Garages/Petrol Sales		
Others - please specify		

\* For 'Village', read 'Town' if appropriate to your case.

How many travelling shops serve your village? (Include delivery services from shops elsewhere.)

What type of goods do they sell? (Encircle those which apply.)

Groceries/Fresh Vegetables and Fruit/Meat/Fish/Bread/Milk and Dairy Products/Ironmongery/Paraffin/Other?

How many offices are there in your village?

TYPE OF OFFICE	NUMBER
Post Office (Part of a General Store)	
Post Office (Not Part of a General Store)	
Banks	
Solicitors	
Accountants	
Estate Agents	
Building Society	
Others - please specify	

To which main centre(s) outside the village do local people go to do their weekly shopping?

(a) Those using public transport? .....  
(b) Those going by car? .....

Does the village have any of the following community facilities:

FACILITY	NUMBER
Churches/Places of Worship	
Village Hall	
Church Hall	
School Hall (available to the public)	
Sports Pavilion	
Public House/Hotel	
Bus Stop (in or near village)	
Others - please specify	

Does the village have:

FACILITY	TICK
Primary School	
Doctor's Surgery (including part-time)	
Health Centre/Dispensary	
Dentist's Surgery	
Police Sub-Station	
Branch Library	
Mobile Library Stopping Place	
Other Local Authority Supported Facilities - please specify	

Does the village have:

RECREATION FACILITY	NUMBER
Public Tennis Courts	
Football Pitch	
Cricknet Pitch	
Rugby Pitch	
Hockey Pitch	
Bowling Green	
Allotments	
Children's Play Area	
Children's Play Equipment	
Common Land/Village Green	
Skittles Alley (in local inn)	
Others - please specify	

What groups are there in the village:

GROUP	TICK
Women's Institute	
Youth Club	
Old Age Pensioners' Club	
Scouts/Guides	
Church or Chapel Groups	
Evening Classes	
Amenity Groups	
Parent-Teachers Association	
Pre-School Playgroup	
Dramatic or Music Society	
Others - please specify	



Village/Town .....

10. WHICH COMMUNITY FACILITY IS MOST URGENTLY NEEDED IN THE VILLAGE?

.....  
.....

11. WHAT ARE THE MOST SERIOUS PROBLEMS IN THE VILLAGE?

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

12. HAS THERE BEEN ANY HOUSING DEVELOPMENT OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS?

.....  
.....

13. ARE THERE ANY VOLUNTARY SELF-HELP SCHEMES OPERATING LOCALLY WHICH PROVIDE ADDITIONAL SERVICES TO THE COMMUNITY?

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

14. DO YOU CONSIDER THAT ANY OF THE FACILITIES YOU HAVE LISTED ABOVE ARE AT ALL LIKELY TO CLOSE DURING THE NEXT TWO YEARS?

.....  
.....  
.....

15. Questions on employment have not been included in this survey due to the inherent difficulties in obtaining accurate information on this subject, but your comments on the local employment situation would be welcomed in a covering letter, if you wish.

Please return completed questionnaires to the Editor of "HATCH", if possible by 25th May. 1979, at this address:

St. Margaret's,  
Hamilton Road,  
TAUNTON,  
Somerset. TA1 2EG

Thankyou for your interest.

LIST OF PARISHES WITH INFORMATION FROM THE THATCH SURVEY  
ONLY

Mendip

1003 Batcombe  
1005 Berkley  
1006 Binegar  
1007 Buckland Din  
1009 Chewton Mend  
1010 Chilcompton  
1013 Croscombe  
1014 Dinder  
1016 Downhead  
1018 East Pennard  
1019 Elm  
1025 Hemington  
1026 Holcombe  
1029 Leigh on Men  
1032 Lydford on F  
1036 North Wootton  
1037 Norton St Phi  
1038 Nunney  
1042 Rode  
1043 Rodney Stoke  
1048 Stratton n Fs  
1049 Stoke St Mic  
1054 Upton Noble  
1055 Walton  
1059 West Pennard  
1060 Westbury  
1061 Whatley  
1062 Witham Friary  
1063 Wookey

Sedgemoor

2001 Ashcott  
2002 Axbridge  
2003 Badgworth  
2004 Bawdrip  
2005 Berrow

2006 Brean  
2007 Brent Knoll  
2013 Cannington  
2017 Cheddar  
2019 Chiln Poldn  
2022 Cossington  
2027 Enmore  
2028 Fiddington  
2029 Goathurst  
2031 Lympsham  
2033 Mark  
2034 Middlezoy  
2036 Nether Stowey  
2038 Othery  
2040 Over Stowey  
2044 Shipham  
2048 Thurloxton  
2049 Weare  
2051 Wembdon  
2054 Woolavington

Taunton Deane

3005 Bish Hl Wout  
3006 Bishop Lydeard  
3007 Brad on Tone  
3009 Chipstaple  
3012 Corfe  
3018 Halse  
3020 Kingston St M  
3022 Lydrd St Law  
3029 Otterford  
3032 Sampfd Arunl  
3037 Stoke St Mar  
3044 Wellington Wt

West Somerset

4004 Brushford

4007 Crowcombe  
 4008 Cutcombe  
 4009 Dulverton  
 4010 Dunster  
 4011 East Quantxh  
 4013 Exford  
 4014 Exmoor  
 4015 Exton  
 4016 Holford  
 4017 Huish Champf  
 4018 Kilve  
 4024 Nettlecombe  
 4027 Porlock  
 4028 Sampfd Brett  
 4029 Selworthy  
 4031 Stogumber  
 4041 Withycombe  
 4043 Woottn Crtny

Yeovil

5002 Alford  
 5005 Ash  
 5007 Babcary  
 5009 Bartn St Dav  
 5010 Barwick  
 5011 Beercrowcombe  
 5014 Broadway  
 5023 Charlton Mack  
 5025 Chillington  
 5026 Chilthn Domr  
 5031 Comptn Dundn  
 5033 Cortn Denham  
 5036 Cucklington  
 5038 Curry Mallet  
 5041 Donyatt  
 5042 Dowlish Wake  
 5043 Drayton  
 5044 East Chinnck  
 5047 Haslebry Plk  
 5050 High Ham

5051 Hintn St Gge  
 5052 Holton  
 5055 Ilchester  
 5058 Ilton  
 5059 Isle Abbotts  
 5061 Keintn Mandv  
 5063 Kingsdon  
 5068 Limington  
 5071 Lopen  
 5072 Lovington  
 5073 Maperton  
 5074 Marstn Magna  
 5075 Martock  
 5076 Merriot  
 5078 Misterton  
 5079 Montacute  
 5081 Mudford  
 5082 North Barrow  
 5083 North Cadbury  
 5084 North Chertn  
 5086 Nortn Sub Hm  
 5087 Odcombe  
 5088 Penselwood  
 5090 Pitney  
 5091 Puckington  
 5092 Queen Camel  
 5093 Rimpton  
 5096 Sheptn Beauc  
 5098 Somerton  
 5099 South Barrow  
 5103 Stocklinch  
 5104 Stoke Sub Hm  
 5105 Stoke Tristr  
 5106 Tintinhull  
 5109 West Camel  
 5113 Whitelacking  
 5115 Wincanton  
 5116 Winsham

Wansdyke/Woodspring

None

# APPENDIX 10 CODING SCHEME FOR

CARD 1 : POSTAL SERVICES/TRANSPORT/GARAGES/SHO			
Col.	Question/information		
	Identification		
1 - 4	Parish code number		
5	Questionnaire coverage		
6 - 7	Year of survey		
	POSTAL SERVICES		
8	1.1 Is there a PO in the parish ?		
9	1.2 Has there previously been one in the parish ?		
10 - 11	Date of PO closure		
12 - 13	Details of special postal arrangements		
	1.3		9 ar 0 1
14	Number of public telephones in the parish		
	1.4		

TRANSPORT

15	2.1 Is the parish served by a regular bus service ?	0 NR 1 No 2 Yes 3 Yes, but restricted to few buses per day 4 Yes, but not daily 8 Other comment on limitations of the service 9 dk
16	2.2 If yes (ie.col 15 coded 2,3,4 or 8), name of operators	0 NA ie.no bus/NR 1 Western National 2 Bristol Omnibus 3 Both Western National & Bristol Omnibus 4 Private operator(s) only 5 Western National & private operator(s) 6 Bristol Omnibus & private operator(s) 7 All three 9 dk/answer to Q.2.1 was yes,but operator not named
17	2.3 Is there a coach hire service in the parish ?	0 NR 1 No 2 Yes 9 dk
18	2.4 Is there a car hire or taxi service in the parish ?	0 NR 1 No 2 Yes 9 dk
19 - 22	Details of special local transport arrangements 2.5	Multiple response. Record up to 4 types of arrangement. 0 NR and no part of Q.2 answered/MV 1 No special arrangements (if other parts of Q.2 answered but this left blank assume none and code = 1, leaving cols 20 - 22 blank) 2 Informal voluntary car sharing (eg.to take children to school) 3 Organised use of private cars (eg.surgery service,hospital cars,OAPs' outings) 4 Minibus or coach service 6 Public use of school or works buses 7 School or works bus - school or works use only 8 Other special local transport (include rail) 9 dk

GARAGES

23	3.1 How many garages are there in the parish ?	0 NR 1 One 2 Two 3 Three 4 Four 5 Five 6 More than 5 8 None 9 dk
----	--	--

		3.										
24 - 31	3.2 Garage services	<p>Multiple response. Record up to 8 garage services in 8 cols. If fewer than 8 services available leave remaining cols blank.</p> <p>0 NR/NA ie.no garage/MV</p> <p>1 Petrol sales</p> <p>2 Vehicle sales (include second hand)</p> <p>3 Motor vehicle repairs</p> <p>4 Repairs to agricultural machinery</p> <p>5 Vehicle hire eg.coaches/taxi service</p> <p>6 Grocery sales/confec.tobacco.news/other retail</p> <p>7 Paraffin/Calor gas supplies</p> <p>8 Other services</p> <p>9 dk</p>										
32	3.3 If there is now no garage, have there previously been any?	<p>0 NR/NA</p> <p>1 No</p> <p>2 Yes</p> <p>3 Parish previously had more garages</p> <p>9 dk</p>										
33 - 34	Date of garage closure	<p>Record last 2 digits of year</p> <p>00 NA/NR</p> <p>99 dk</p>										
<u>SHOPS</u>												
35 - 37	4.1 Number of shops in the parish.	<p>Include PO, farm stall, garden centre and eg. community shops listed under 'others'.</p> <p>Record number of shops in 3 cols. If there are 10 shops, record as 010.</p> <p>000 NR</p> <p>888 None</p> <p>999 dk</p>										
38 - 77	4.2 Shop types	<p>Multiple response. If cols 35 - 37 coded 000, 888 or 999 leave cols 38 - 77 blank. Otherwise record up to 20 shop types, each occupying 2 cols. (See attached list) If there is more than one of a certain shop type, record each one. Eg. 2 butchers = 0606.</p> <p>If there are more than 20 shops make use of the combination codes.</p>										
78	4.3 Have any shops closed in recent years ?	<p>0 NR</p> <p>1 No</p> <p>2 Yes</p> <p>9 dk</p>										
79 - 80	CARD NUMBER : 01											
<u>CARD 2 : SHOP CLOSURES/SHOPPING VISITS TO OTHER CENTRES</u>												
1 - 7	Identification											
<u>SHOP CLOSURES</u>												
8	Number of shops closed in last 4 years.	<p>If no shops have closed, or NR, leave cols 8 - 70 blank. If any have closed, record closures in the appropriate time periods. Use 8=None for those time periods when none closed.</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>0 NR/NA (Q.4.3 coded 0 or 1)</td> <td>4 Four</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1 One</td> <td>5 Five</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2 Two</td> <td>6 Six</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3 Three</td> <td>7 More than 6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8 None</td> <td>9 dk</td> </tr> </table>	0 NR/NA (Q.4.3 coded 0 or 1)	4 Four	1 One	5 Five	2 Two	6 Six	3 Three	7 More than 6	8 None	9 dk
0 NR/NA (Q.4.3 coded 0 or 1)	4 Four											
1 One	5 Five											
2 Two	6 Six											
3 Three	7 More than 6											
8 None	9 dk											

4.		
9 - 18	Types of shop closed in last 4 yrs.	Multiple response. Record up to 5 closures using the 2 figure shop codes. If less than 5 closures leave missing values blank. If more than 5 closures record the first 5 types.
19 - 28	Of shops closed in last 4 yrs, those reopened as other shops.	If none have opened, leave blank. Record up to 5 types of shop using the 2 figure shop codes. If more than 5 openings, record the first 5.
29	Number of shops closed 5 - 9 yrs ago.	As col. 8
30 - 39	Types of shops closed 5 - 9 yrs ago.	As col. 9 - 18. Shop codes.
40 - 49	Of shops closed 5 - 9 yrs ago, those reopened as other shops.	As col. 19 - 28. Shop codes.
50	Number of shops closed more than 10 yrs ago.	As col. 8
51 - 60	Types of shops closed more than 10 yrs ago.	As col. 9 - 18. Shop codes.
61 - 70	Of shops closed more than 10 yrs ago, those reopened as other shops.	As col. 19 - 28. Shop codes.
<u>SHOPPING VISITS TO OTHER CENTRES</u>		
	5.1 Centres visited by those using public transport.	Multiple Response. Record up to 5 places using the 4 figure parish codes, plus additional place codes for those outside the survey area. (See attached list)
71 - 74	1st place	
75 - 78	2nd place	0000 NR 9997 'Anywhere' 9998 'No public transport' 9999 dk
79 - 80	CARD NUMBER : 02	
<u>CARD 3 : SHOPPING VISITS TO OTHER CENTRES TRAVELLING SHOPS &amp; DELIVERIES</u>		
1 - 7	Identification	
8 - 11	3rd place	
12 - 15	4th place	
16 - 19	5th place	
	5.2 Centres visited by those using cars	As for Q.5.1. Code 9998 does not apply.
20 - 23	1st place	
24 - 27	2nd place	
28 - 31	3rd place	
32 - 35	4th place	
36 - 39	5th place	
<u>TRAVELLING SHOPS &amp; DELIVERIES</u>		
40 - 41	6.1 Number of travelling shops (& delivery services).	Max. 10 may be recorded. If more, record number but record details of only the first 10. 00 NR                      88 None 01 One                    99 dk 02 two etc.

		5.	
42 - 43	Goods sold - Tradesman 1	See list of Travelling Shop codes.	
44	Frequency of visits - Tradesman 1	0 NA/NR 1 Once a week 2 Twice a week 3 Three, four or five times a week 4 Daily/daily except Sundays 5 Fortnightly/every three weeks 6 Monthly or less often 7 Sporadic visits 8 Other 9 Not specified/dk	
45 - 48	Place of origin - Tradesman 1	Use 4 figure parish and place codes as Q.5.1. Codes 9997 and 9998 do not apply.	
49 - 50	Goods - Tradesman 2		
51	Freq. - "		
52 - 55	Place - "		
56 - 57	Goods - Tradesman 3		
58	Freq. - "		
59 - 62	Place - "		
63 - 64	Goods - Tradesman 4		
65	Freq. - "		
66 - 69	Place - "		
7 - 71	Goods - Tradesman 5		
72	Freq. - "		
73 - 76	Place - "		
77 - 78	Goods - Tradesman 6		
97 - 80	CARD NUMBER : 03		
<u>CARD 4 : TRAVELLING SHOPS/PROF.SERVICES/PUBLIC FACILITIES</u>			
1 - 7	Identification		
8	Freq. - Tradesman 6		
9 - 12	Place - "		
13 - 14	Goods - Tradesman 7		
15	Freq. - "		
16 - 19	Place - "		
20 - 21	Goods - Tradesman 8		
22	Freq. - "		
23 - 26	Place - "		
27 - 28	Goods - Tradesman 9		
29	Freq. - "		
30 - 33	Place - "		
34 - 35	Goods - Tradesman 10		
36	Freq. - "		
37 - 40	Place - "		
<u>PROFESSIONAL SERVICES</u>			
41	Number of banks	0 NR                      5 Five 1 One                     6 Six 2 Two                    7 More than six 3 Three                  8 None 4 Four                   9 dk	



		6.	
42	Banking service full time, part time or mobile ?	0 NR/NA ie no service 1 service is full time 2 service is part time, not mobile 3 at least part of the service is mobile 9 dk whether service is full time, part time or mobile.	
43	Number of building societies	As banks	
44	Type of building society service		
45	Number of solicitors		
46	Type of solicitors service	NB. This section includes only those professionals who work in the parish. Those who live in the parish but work only elsewhere are excluded.	
47	Number of accountants		
48	Type of accountants service		
49	Number of estate agents/auctioneers		
50	Type of estate agents service		
51	Number of vets		
52	Type of vet service		
53	Number of other professional services eg. architects, undertakers.		
54	Type of other service		
<u>PUBLIC FACILITIES</u>			
55	Number of churches/places of worship	0 NR 1 One 2 Two 3 Three 4 Four	5 Five 6 Six 7 More than 6 8 None 9 dk
56	Number of pubs/hotels	As churches	
57	Number of guest houses/b&b		
58	Number of cinemas		
59	Number of police stations		
60	Number of fire stations		
61	Library service	0 NR 1 Branch library 2 Mobile service 8 No library 9 dk	
<u>CLOSURE OF PUBLIC FACILITIES</u>			
62	Has the parish suffered closures of any of these facilities in the last 10 yrs ?	0 NR 1 No 2 Yes 9 dk	
Details of closures :			
63	1st Facility Type of facility	0 NA/NR 1 church/place of worship 2 pub/hotel 3 guest house/b & b 4 cinema 5 police station 6 fire station 7 branch or mobile library 9 dk	

64 - 66	Year closed	7. Record last 2 digits of year
		00 NA/NR
		99 dk
66	Present use of building	0 NA/NR
		1 empty/none
		2 private house
		3 hall/other community meeting place
		4 retail or office use
		5 industrial/warehouse/storage
		6 reopened as a public facility (i.e. as church, pub, hotel, cinema etc. Q8.1)
		7 building demolished
		8 other
		9 use not specified / dk
67	2nd facility Type of facility	As 1st facility
68 - 69	Year of closure	
7	Present use	
71	3rd facility Type of facility	
72 - 73	Year of closure	
74	Present use	
75	4th facility Type of facility	
76 - 77	Year of closure	
78	Present use	
79 - 80	CARD NUMBER : 04	
ARD 5 :	CL SURE OF FA ILITIES/HEALTH SERVICES/EDUCATION/MEETING PLACES	
1 - 7	Identification	
8	5th facility Type of facility	
9 - 1	Year of closure	
11	Present use	
12	6th facility Type of facility	
13 - 14	Year of closure	
15	Present use	
	<u>HEALTH SERVICES</u>	
	9.1 Does the parish have any of the following health services ?	
16	Cottage hospital	0 NR and no part of Q9.1 answered 1 No/blank, but other parts of Q9.1 answered 2 Yes 3 dk
17	Other hospital	
18	Health centre	As for cottage hospital
19	Doctors' surgeries	0 NR and no part of Q9.1 answered 1 None 2 At least 1 doc's surgery with dispensary 3 At least 1 doc's surgery without dispensary 4 More than 1 doc's surgery with dispensary 5 More than 1 doc's surgery without dispensary 6 At least 1 doc's surgery, but dk whether it has dispensary or not 7 Doctors' surgery is a health centre 9 don't know

		8.
20	Clinics : 1st clinic Type	Record details of up to 2 clinics 0 NR 1 No clinic 2 Infant welfare 3 Ante natal/post natal 4 Other clinic (eg.dental, chiropody) 8 Type of clinic not specified 9 dk
21	Where held	0 NR/NA/ no clinic 1 Village hall 2 School hall 3 Other hall 4 Surgery 5 Health centre/hospital 6 Private house 7 Other (eg.OAPs' home) 9 dk
22	Frequency	0 NR/NA 1 Daily 2 Weekly or more often 3 fortnightly 4 Monthly or less often 5 other 9 dk
23	2nd clinic Type	
24	Where held	
25	Frequency	
26	Dental surgery	As for cottage hospital
27	Optician	0 NR and no part of Q9.1 answered 1 No/blank,but other parts of Q9.1 answered 2 Yes, own surgery in parish 3 Yes,makes home visits 4 Yes,attends clinic 5 Yes,two of these 6 Yes,all three types of service 8 Is an optician,but type of service not specified 9 dk
28	Chiropodist	As optician
29	Dispensing chemist	As for cottage hospital NB.check shops coding
30	Other health services or special arrangements locally	0 NR and no part of Q9.1 answered 1 None/blank,but other parts of Q9.1 answered 2 Private nursing home 3 Voluntary nursing 4 Voluntary scheme eg.collecting prescriptions 5 other service 6 respondent names nearest facilities 9 dk
<u>EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES</u>		
31	Pre-school playgroup/mothers' and toddlers' group ?	0 NR and no part of Q10.1 answered 1 No/blank,but other parts of Q10.1 answered 2 Yes,playgroup or mothers and toddlers 3 Yes,playgroup 4 Yes,mothers and toddlers group 5 both playgroup and mother and toddlers 6 more than one of either/each 9 dk

9		
32	Nursery school NB.Record infant school in col.39	0 NR/no part of Q.10.1 answered 1 No/blank,but other parts of Q10.1 answered 2 yes,run by Local Authority 3 yes,privately organised 4 yes,either private or LA run 5 yes, both private and LA run 6 more than one of either/both 9 dk
33	Primary school	0 NR/no part of Q10.1 answered 1 No/blank,but other parts of Q10.1 answered 2 Yes 9 dk
34	Secondary school	As primary school
35	Preparatory Public school	0 NR/no part of Q10.1 answered 1 No/blank,but other parts of Q10.1 answered 2 Yes,prep school 3 Yes,public school 4 Yes,either prep or public school (incl unvars) 5 Yes,both 6 Yes,more than one of either/both 9 dk
36	Sixth form or Tertiary college	0 NR/no part of Q10.1 answered 1 No/blank,but other parts of Q10.1 answered 2 Yes,sixth form college 3 Yes,Tertiary college 4 Yes,either 9 dk
37	Further educational establishment	0 NR/no part.... 1 No/blank,but.. 2 technical college 3 other college 9 dk
38	Adult education classes	0 NR no part.... 1 No/blank,but.. 2 Yes (include 'occasional') 9 dk
39	Other educational facilities	0 NR/no part.... 1 No/blank,but.. 2 middle school 3 field study centre 4 special school 6 infant school 5 other 8 yes,but not specified 9 dk
<u>COMMUNITY MEETING PLACES</u>		
40	Number of halls and other meeting places named (NB.Record number, but record details of only the first 7 halls)	0 NR 1 One 2 Two 3 Three 4 Four 5 Five 6 Six 7 Seven or more 8 None 9 dk

10.

## CARD : 5 CLOSURE OF FACILITIES/HEALTH SERVICES/EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES/MEETING PLACES

COL.	QUESTION/INFORMATION	CODING DETAILS	CODE NO.
(41-63)	<u>1st hall</u>	NA/NR	0
41	1st hall - type	village hall/community centre/village club	1
		school hall	2
		church hall/chapel room	3
		scout/cub/guide/brownie hut or hall	4
		other hall or hut (eg WI, RBL)	5
		pub room	6
		meeting room in some other building (eg OAPs' home, rectory, sports centre)	7
		is a hall, but no details given	8
		dk	9
42	1st hall - ownership or management body	NA/NR	0
		charity trustees/hall management committee	1
		parish council	2
		'school/LEA	3
		church authority or organisation	4
		main user organisation (eg WL, RBL)	5
		other organisation (eg Duchy of Cornwall, Health Authority)	6
		private owner (eg brewery in the case of a pub room)	7
		is a hall, but no details given	8
		dk	9
43	1st hall - frequency of use	NA/NR	0
		daily	1
		weekly or more often	2
		about fortnightly	3
		about monthly or less often	4
		'sometimes'/'infrequently'/'sporadically'	5
		'as required'	6
		hall closed/not used	7
		frequency not specified	8
		dk	9
44	<u>1st hall - activities</u>	'Activities summary code' ie.	0
		NA/NR	0
		Some of the 16 possible types of activity take place in the hall and are shown in the following 16 cols. ie a 'something coming up' code.	1
		Respondent implies that a range of activities takes place, but these are not specified	8
		dk	9
		For the following 16 types of activity, record either presence or absence using 1 or 0 (ie blank).	
45	Social events (eg dances, concerts, whist drives, fetes flower shows & other annual events)	yes	1
		no	0
46	Adult social clubs (eg WI, RBL)	as col 45	
47	Young peoples' clubs (eg youth clubs, scouts, cadets)		
48	'village welfare' groups (eg OAPs luncheon clubs, play groups)		

## CARD : 5 MEETING PLACES

COL.	QUESTION/INFORMATION	CODING DETAILS	CODE NO.
49	Special interest groups (eg amenity groups, local history society, music, gardening, drama)	As col. 45	
50	Educational use (eg school classes WEA)		
51	Health use (eg Doctor's surgery, clinic)		
52	Sports etc (eg badminton, yoga, dance)		
53	Parish council meetings/other committee meetings		
54	Church activities/Parochial church council		
55	Private hirings (eg wedding recpns)		
56	Polling stations		
57	Sub Post Office		
58	Community shop/market		
59	Library/information service/advice		
60	Others (eg sales, auctions, exhibitions)		
61-62	If 1st hall is closed, year of closure	NR/NA/Hall not closed hall is closed, but don't know when otherwise record last two digits of yr	00 99
63	If 1st hall is closed, present use of building	NR/NA/Hall not closed private house reopened as hall or other community meeting place retail or office use industrial or warehousing use/storage use as a public facility (as specified in Q 8.1) building demolished other empty/none hall is closed, but don't know present use	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
64	2nd hall - type	As col. 41-43	
65	" - ownership or management		
66	" - frequency of use		
67	" - activities	As col. 44	
68	" - social events		
69	" - adult social clubs		
70	" - Young people's clubs		
71	" - village welfare		
72	" - special interest	As col. 45	
73	" - educational use		
74	" - health use		
75	" - sports etc		
76	" - parish council etc		
77	" - church activities		
78	" - private hirings		
79-80	CARD NO. 05		

## CARD : 6 COMMUNITY MEETING PLACES

COL.	QUESTION/INFORMATION	CODING DETAILS	CODE NO.
1-7	Identification		
8	2nd hall - Polling station	As Card 5 col. 45	
9	" - Sub Post Office		
10	" - Community shop/market		
11	" - Library/info/advice		
12	" - Others (eg sales)		
13-14	If 2nd hall is closed, year of closure	As Card 5 cols. 61-62	
15	If 2nd hall is closed, present use of building	As Card 5 col. 63	
16	3rd hall - type	As Card 5 col. 41-43	
17	" - ownership or management	As Card 5 col. 44	
18	" - frequency of use		
19	" - activities		
20	" - social events		
21	" - adult social clubs		
22	" - young peoples' clubs	As Card 5 col. 45	
23	" - village welfare		
24	" - special interest		
25	" - educational use		
26	" - health use		
27	" - sports etc		
28	" - parish council etc		
29	" - church activities		
30	" - private hirings		
31	" - polling station		
32	" - sub post office		
33	" - community shop/market		
34	" - library/info/advice		
35	" - others (eg sales)		
36-37	If 3rd hall is closed, year of closure	As Card 5 col. 61-62	
38	If 3rd hall is closed, present use of building	As Card 5 col. 63	
39	4th hall - type	As Card 5 cols. 41-43	
40	" - ownership or management	As Card 5 col. 44	
41	" - frequency of use		
42	" - activities		
43	" - social events		
44	" - adult social clubs		
45	" - young peoples' clubs	As Card 5 col. 45	
46	" - village welfare		
47	" - special interest		
48	" - educational use		
49	" - health use		
50	" - sports etc		
51	" - parish council etc		
52	" - church activities		
53	" - private hirings		
54	" - polling station		
55	" - sub post office		
56	" - community shop/market		
57	" - library/info/advice		
58	" - others (eg sales)		

## CARD : 6 COMMUNITY MEETING PLACES

COL.	QUESTION/INFORMATION	CODING DETAILS	CODE NO.
59-60	If 4th hall closed, year of closure	As Card 5 cols. 61-62	
61	If 4th hall closed, present use of building	As Card 5 col. 63	
62	5th hall - type	As Card 5 col. 41-43	
63	" - ownership or management		
64	" - frequency of use		
65	" - activities	As Card 5 col 44	
66	" - social events		
67	" - adult social clubs		
68	" - young peoples' clubs		
69	" - village welfare		
70	" - special interest		
71	" - educational use		
72	" - health use	As Card 5 col. 45	
73	" - sports etc		
74	" - parish council etc		
75	" - church activities		
76	" - private hirings		
77	" - polling stations		
78	" - sub post office		

79-8 ARD N . 06

## AFD : 7 MMUNITY MEETING PLACES/RECREATION

1-7	Identifi ati n		
8	5th hall - community shop/market		
9	" - library info/advice	As Card 5 col. 45	
1	" - others (eg sales)		
11-12	If 5th hall is closed, year of closure	As Card 5 col. 61-62	
13	If 5th hall is closed, present use of building	As Card 5 col. 63	
14	6th hall - type	As Card 5 cols. 41-43	
15	" - ownership or management		
16	" - frequency of use		
17	" - activities		
18	" - social events		
19	" - adult social clubs		
20	" - young peoples' clubs		
21	" - village welfare		
22	" - special interest		
23	" - educational use		
24	" - health use	As Card 5 col 45	
25	" - sports etc		
26	" - parish council etc		
27	" - church activities		
28	" - private hirings		
29	" - polling station		
30	" - sub post office		
31	" - community shop/market		
32	" - library/info/advice		
33	" - others (eg sales)		



## CARD : 7 COMMUNITY MEETING PLACES/RECREATION

COL.	QUESTION/INFORMATION	CODING DETAILS	CODE NO.
34-35	If 6th hall is closed, year of closure	As Card 5. cols. 61-65	
36	If 6th hall is closed, present use of building	As Card 5 col. 63	
37	7th hall - type	As Card 5 cols. 41-43	
38	" - ownership or management	As Card 5 col. 45	
39	" - frequency of use		
40	" - activities		
41	" - social events		
42	" - adult social clubs		
43	" - young people's clubs		
44	" - village welfare		
45	" - special interest		
46	" - educational use		
47	" - health use		
48	" - sports etc		
49	" - parish council etc		
5	" - church activities		
51	" - private hirings		
52	" - polling station		
53	" - sub post office		
54	" - community shop/market		
55	" - library/info/advice		
56	" - others (eg sales)		
57 58	If 7th hall closed, year of closure	As Card 5 cols. 61-62	
59	If 7th hall closed, present use of building	As Card 5 col. 63	
	<u>Recreation facilities and public open space</u>	No response and no part of Q12.1 answered	0
5	Village recreation ground/playing field	Left blank, but part of Q12.1 answered/no	1
		yes	2
		dk	9
61	school playing field (public use)	code as for col. 60	
62	school playing field(school use only)		
63	works playing field (public use)		
64	works playing field (works use only)		
65	tennis courts	code as for col. 60 but add the following code:	
66	outdoor bowls green		
67	sports pavilion		
68	skittles alley		restricted use 8
69	allotments	code as for col. 60	
70	common land/village green/parks	No response, and no part of Q.12.1 answd	0
		Left blank, but part of Q.12.1 answered/	
		no	1
		common land	2
		village green	3
		both common land and village green	4
		public park	5
		public park & common land or village green	6
		is common land or village green, but not distinguished	8
		dk	9

## CARD : 7 COMMUNITY MEETING PLACES/RECREATION

COL.	QUESTION/INFORMATION	CODING DETAILS	CODE NO.
71-73	Water amenities available to the public	Multiple response format space to record up to three different types of water amenity, each occupying one column. missing value/NR none swimming pool stream/river lake/reservoir fishing in stream/river/lake/reservoir boating/sailing on stream/river/lake/res sea other wate amenity (eg pond) dk	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
74-78	Other specialised recreation facilities	Multiple response format space to record up to 5 different types of facility, each occupying one column missing values/NR none sports centre football pitch cricket pitch other pitch childrens' play area/equipment open space/amenity areas/nature trails other (eg riding school) dk	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

79-80 CARD NO. 07

## CARD 8 : CLUBS AND ASSOCIATIONS

## 1-7 Identification

Clubs and associations

8	WI	NR/and no part of Q.13.1 answered Left blank, but part of Q.13.1 answered/no yes dk	0 1 2 9
9	WI where held ?	NA/NR and no part of Q13.1 answered village hall/community centre school hall/school church hall/chapel hall or room other hall or hut (include WI,RBL,Scouts, cubs, brownies, guides) pub room meeting place in some other building (eg OAP's home, rectory, sports centre or at pitch) private house outside parish meeting place not specified/varies/dk  Note If more than one place is given, record only the first one, unless respondent states 'varies'	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

## CARD : 8 CLUBS AND ASSOCIATIONS

COL.	QUESTION/INFORMATION	CODING DETAILS	CODE NO.
10	WRVS	Record as for cols. 8 and 9	
11	WRVS - where held ?		
12	Royal British Legion		
13	RBL - where held ?		
14	Rotary/Round Table		
15	Rotary/Round Table - where held ?		
16	Church or chapel groups		
17	Church or chapel groups-where held ?		
18	Drama/Music clubs		
19	Drama/Music clubs - where held ?		
20	OAPs' clubs		
21	OAPs' clubs - where held ?		
22	Political clubs		
23	Political clubs - where held ?		
24	Amenity/conservation groups		
25	Amenity/conservation groups-where held?		
26	PTA		
27	PTA - where held ?		
<u>Other adults' groups</u>			
28-29		Multiple response format space to record up to 6 additional groups, using 2 cols for each - one for <u>type</u> of group and one for <u>where held</u> . For where held, use the codes for col. 9 above.	
		<u>Types of adult groups:</u>	
		missing values/NR	0
		none	1
		other men's clubs	2
		other women's clubs	3
		community/social clubs	4
		clubs for outdoor sports (eg football, cricket)	5
		clubs for indoor sports (eg badminton)	6
		annual events committees etc	7
		other adults' groups	8
		dk	9
<u>Young peoples' clubs</u>			
40	Youth club	Use codes as for col. 8 and 9 above	
41	Youth club - where held ?		
42	Scouts/cubs/brownies/guides		
43	Scouts etc - where held ?		
44	Cadets		
45	Cadets - where held ?		
46	young Farmers Club		
47	YFC - where held ?		
48-55	<u>Other young peoples' clubs</u>	Multiple response format space to record up to 4 additional clubs, using 2 cols for each - one for <u>type</u> of club and one for <u>where held</u> . For where held, use the codes for col. 9 card 8.	
		<u>Types of young peoples' clubs</u>	
		missing values/NR	0
		none	1
		clubs for outdoor sports	2
		clubs for indoor sports	3
		special interest groups (eg drama, ballet)	4
		church groups	5
		other boys clubs	6
		other girls clubs	7
		other young peoples' clubs	8
		dk	9

56-57	Blank	
58	Has a school opened in the parish since 1950 ?	0 NR 1 No 2 Yes 9 dk
59-60	If yes, date of opening	Record last 2 digits of year. 00 NR/no school opened 99 dk
61	Has a school closed in the parish since 1950 ?	0 NR 1 No 2 Yes 3 more than one has closed 9 dk
62-63	If yes, date of closure	Record last 2 digits of year. If >1 has closed record date of first closure. 00 NR/school not closed 99 dk
64-65	If school has closed, present use of building	00 NR/NA/school not closed 01 empty/none 02 private house 03 hall/meeting place 04 retail or office use 05 warehouse/storage 06 industry/workshop 07 educational use (eg field centre) - includes reopened as school 08 church/place of worship 09 pub/hotel/guest house/b & b 10 other public facility (cinema, police stn etc) 11 other use 12 demolished 99 not specified/dk
66	Blank	
	Parishes where children now attend school	
67-70	1st parish	Record up to 3 parishes using the 4 figure parish codes.
71-74	2nd parish	
75-78	3rd parish	
79-80	CARD NUMBER : 08	

CARD 9 : INDUSTRY & EMPLOYMENT/HOUSES BUILT/FACILITIES NEEDED/PROBLEMS/FARM WORKERS/POP

1 - 7 Identification

INDUSTRY & EMPLOYMENT

8 Has there been any response to Q 14.1 or 14.2 ?

- 1 No
- 2 Yes

9 - 38 Types of firm listed

Multiple response. Record up to 10 firms or industries using the SIC Minimum List Headings. Each occupies 3 cols. If more than one of a particular type of firm, record once only.

000 NR/MV  
888 Industrial estate  
999 dk

In the case of industrial estates use 888 but record in addition anything outside the estate.

39 - 44 Comments on the local employment situation.

Multiple response. Record up to 3 comments, each occupying 2 cols, using the attached list.

00 NR/no comments

45 15.1 Have any new houses been built over the past 10 yrs ?

- 0 NR
- 1 None
- 2 Less than 10
- 3 Between 10 and 20
- 4 More than 20
- 5 Some have been built but can't say how many (Use this eg. if respondents disagree)
- 8 Some other response
- 9 dk

46 - 47 15.2 Types of houses built

Multiple response. Space to record up to 2 comments selected from the following :

- 0 NR/NA/no houses built
- 1 detached/semi detached private houses
- 2 estate development
- 3 infilling
- 4 bungalows
- 5 council housing of any sort (include also housing associations)
- 6 conversions
- 7 agricultural workers' dwellings only
- 8 comment on restrictions over house building. eg conservation area
- 9 other comment

NB. Comments on size or price of houses may be interpreted as problems and recorded in cols 55 - 64.

48 Checking code. Are there any voluntary, self-help schemes (not already mentioned) ?

- 0 NR
- 1 No
- 2 Yes
- 9 dk

If YES, record any schemes mentioned in an appropriate place earlier in the questionnaire. If there are still additional schemes, code col 48 = 2.

49 - 50	17.1 Possible closures	Multiple response. Record up to 2 possible closures, selected from the following :
		0 NR/MV 1 Retail & related services (eg PO,bank) 2 Public transport 3 Public facilities(church,pub,police etc) 4 Health service (eg.health centre,surgery) 5 Educational facility (eg.school) 6 Hall/meeting place/recreation/sports facility 7 Industry/source of employment 8 Some voluntary/self-help project 9 None/'unlikely'/other/dk
51 - 54	17.2 Additional facilities required (& other comments generated by this question)	Multiple response. Record up to 2 facilities, each occupying 2 cols.
		00 NR/MV 01 Retail & related service 02 Public transport 03 Public facility (church,cinema,police - not 04 Health service pubs & hotels) 05 Educational facility 06 Hall/meeting place 07 Industry/source of employment 08 Recreation/sports facility (include pitches) 10 Street lighting/sewers/mains etc 11 Housing (any sort) 12 Increased information/advice service 13 More social contact/more leaders/self-help 14 pub/hotel/guest house/b & b 17 Facilities for young people 18 By pass/car parks/other road improvement 19 Facilities for the elderly 20 Public telephone 21 Public toilets 15 Other comment (eg.'wouldn't want change') 16 None 99 dk
55 - 64	18.1 What are the most serious problems in the parish ?	Multiple response. Record up to 5 problems, each occupying 2 cols. See attached list.
65 - 69	Parish population Somerset : 1977 estimate Avon : 1976 estimate	
70	BLANK	
71 - 73	Farm labour (sum 1)	1978 whole time farm labour (inc.family workers) from June 1978 Agric>Returns cols 50,53,56,57,58,61,62.
74 - 76	Farm workers (sum 2)	1978 whole time farm workers (approximation) from June 1978 Agric>Returns cols 56,61,62. In cols 71 - 73 and 74 - 76: 000 NR 888 none 999 dk
77 - 78	Blank	
79 - 80	CARL NUMBER : 09	

# SHOP CODES

- 00 NR/NA/MV
- 01 PO & general store (including grocery or other food sales - may include some non-food also)
- 02 PO & non-food goods eg.stationery,newspapers,confection,tobacco
- 03 PO basic PO facilities only
- 30 04 grocers/food supermarket/general store (including those with off licences)
- 05 mainly baker/confectioner (bakeries not retailing recorded under industry)
- 06 mainly butcher
- 07 mainly fishmonger
- 08 mainly greengrocer/fruiterer
- 09 mainly dairyman
- 10 other food shops (eg. vegetarian,health food,ice cream,off licence not in grocer or pub)
- 11 confection/newsagent/tobacconist
- 12 cafe/restaurant/take away
- 13 dispensing chemist
- 14 bookseller stationer
- 15 mainly clothing (include second hand, except charity shops)
- 16 footwear/shoe repairs
- 17 haberdashery/wool/fabrics/tailor/dressmaker
- 18 hardware ironmongery/glass & china/wallpaper & paint
- 19 radio electrical
- 20 furniture & other household goods
- 21 antiques gifts/crafts
- 22 jewellery leather/sports
- 23 hairdresser/barber/beautician
- 24 laundry launderette/dry cleaner
- 25 other non-food shops (eg.toys,pets,cycles,gas & electricity showrooms, charity shop)
- 26 garden centre/nurseries
- 27 farm stall or shop
- 28 street market
- 29 community shop (include WI market)

## Combination codes

- 30 Full range of food shops plus a PO listed by respondent.(NB.In order to use code 30 it need not be necessary to have separate butcher, fishmonger etc if general stores sell meat, fish etc. If all types of food are available in the parish and there are more than 20 shops in all so that not every one may be separately categorised, used code 30 and then list each non-food shop separately, to max of 29)
- 33 Respondent lists all the above shop types, non-food as well as food, plus a PO. (This code is rarely applicable)
- 88 Respondent does not give details of shops but replies eg.'a full range of shops'.
- 99 dk

SHOPPING CENTRE CODES AND PLACES NAMED AS ORIGINS OF TRAVELLING SHOPS

Parish codes are used except for the following :

9501 Bristol  
9502 Bath  
  
9001 Trowbridge  
9002 Tiverton  
9003 Exeter  
9004 Sherborne  
9005 Gillingham  
9006 Bournemouth  
9007 Barnstaple  
9008 South Moulton  
9009 Stalbridge  
9010 Chippenham  
9011 Gloucester  
9012 Bradford on Avon  
9013 Wootton under Edge  
9014 Chepstow  
9016 Tetbury  
9017 Cheltenham  
9018 Alderley  
9019 Berkeley  
9020 Slimbridge  
9021 Itchington  
9022 Box  
9023 Yetminster  
9024 Bridport  
9025 Lynton  
9026 Lynmouth  
9027 Porlock  
9028 Bossington  
9029 Kings Brompton  
9030 Bampton  
9031 Rodewater  
9032 Axminster  
9033 Shaftsbury

Unidentified small villages outside Somerset and Avon :

9050 Devon  
9051 Wiltshire  
9052 Dorset  
9053 Gloucestershire  
9054 Wales



CODES FOR TRAVELLING SHOPS AND DELIVERIES

- 00 NR
- 01 Milk
- 02 Mild and dairy produce (or other products eg. fruit juice, poultry)
- 03 Bread/cakes
- 04 Groceries
- 05 Fruit/veg
- 06 Meat
- 07 Fish (wet)
- 08 Fish & chips/other mobile caterers
- 09 Bread & fruit & veg
- 10 Bread & meat/fish
- 11 Bread & groceries
- 12 Groceries & fruit & veg
- 13 Groceries & meat/fish
- 17 Fish & fruit & veg
- 18 Meat & fruit & veg
- 19 Drinks
- 14 Other food (eg ice cream)
- 15 Ironmongery/paraffin/calor gas
- 16 Other non-food
  
- 20 Newspaper deliveries
- 21 Coal deliveries
- 22 Laundry service
  
- 88 Any other response (eg complaints about lack of a particular service,  
include other services, eg. mobile hairdresser)
- 99 dk

CODES FOR COMMENTS ON THE LOCAL EMPLOYMENT SITUATION

00 NR/NA/no comments

Those describing the local employment structure

- 01 Mainly farms/agricultural employment
- 02 Some farming, some work outside
- 03 Commuters/most work outside the parish
- 04 Respondent names major local employer(s)
- 05 No major local employer in the parish, but some other large source of employment close by
- 06 There is a large source of employment in the parish or close by but employs few local people
- 07 Industrial estate/small factories in the parish or close by employs local people, or is in process of being developed & will employ locals.
- 08 Seasonal employment eg. tourist industry
- 09 Mostly retired people
- 30 No industry
- 31 Limited employment opportunities in the parish
- 32 Largely residential area

Those making a comment on the employment situation

- 11 There is a lack of employment/unemployment is a problem
- 12 Unemployment is not a problem
- 13 Young people have most problems finding work
- 14 Unemployment/problems of finding work most serious for some other group eg. women
- 15 Problems of transport to work
- 16 Other comment on the employment situation

Those expressing opinions or 'policy statements' on future employment

- 17 Encourage local employment
- 18 Encourage small firms/craft industries
- 19 Encourage any type of local industry
- 20 Respondent objects to industrial development or states eg 'local people don't want industry'
- 21 Some other opinion
- 22 No particular problems

CODES FOR VILLAGE OR PARISH PROBLEMS

- 00 NR/MV
- 01 Lack retail or related services (eg.PO, garage,bank etc)
- 02 Lack public transport/public transport irregular, infrequent, costly
- 03 Lack public facilities (church,pub,cinema,police,fire station,libraries)
- 04 Lack health service (doctors' surgery, dispensary etc)
- 05 Lack education facilities (school,adult ed etc)
- 06 Lack hall,other meeting places, recreation facilities
- 07 Lack of or deterioration of local authority services in general
- 08 Problems with water supply/sewage/mains drainage
- 09 Problems with flooding (include snow clearance)
- 10 Lack facilities for young people
- 11 Lack facilities for OAPs
- 12 Lack housing for young couples
- 13 Lack housing in general
- 14 Lack employment opportunities for young people
- 15 Lack employment opportunities for other groups/in general
- 16 Increasing average age of residents
- 17 Lack identity as a village/lack community spirit/not enough social contact
- 18 Lack of leaders to run voluntary projects etc/difficulty in getting people to stand for Parish Council etc
- 19 Change from rural community to commuter area
- 20 Friction between newcomers and established residents
- 21 Speeding traffic/heavy lorries/other traffic dangers or nuisance
- 22 Roads badly maintained/need for improvements eg.lay-bys,pavements,street lights
- 23 Problems related to car parking
- 24 Problems relating to tourism or recreation in the area(include second homes if mentioned in this context)
- 25 litter/rubbish dumping/abandoned cars etc
- 26 vandalism/'hooliganism'
- 27 problems arising from a specific local firm or industry eg. quarry. (Include farm smells)
- 28 Noise problems
- 29 Housing too expensive for locals
- 30 Village or parish divided by a main road or railway line
- 31 restrictive LA policies eg. conservation area/'red tape'/beaurocracy
- 32 threat of proposed development (eg.encroachment by housing estate/industry)
- 33 boundary or other administrative problems
- 34 isolation
- 35 environmental or landscape problems (include pollution)
- 36 no mains gas
- 37 depopulation/small size of population/scattered population
- 38 growing population
- 39 threat of closure of services/specific facility threatened eg.school
- 77 No problems
- 88 Other problems
- 99 Problems not specified/dk

APPENDIX 11 EXAMPLE OF LISTING OF FACILITIES BY PARISH.  
1950 AND 1980 SURVEYS

BRACEY SURVEY OF SOMERSET 1947-51			SHOPS										
DISTRICT	PARISH	S HOPS	GROCCERS	OTIER SHOPS	FOOD	POST OFFICE	NEWSAGNT TOB CON BOOKS	CLOTHING SHOES HABERDASH	HOUSEHLD ELECTRIC GIFTETC	HAIRD RESSER	LAUN DRY	GARAGE	
WANSDYKE	BATHAMPTON	6-10	1	1	1	1	1	NONE	1	NONE	NONE	1	
	BATHEASTON	21-25	4	7	1	1	1	NONE	1	1	NONE	3	
	BATHFORD	11-15	5	3	1	1	1	1	NONE	1	NONE	1	
	CAMELEY	6-10	1	1	1	1	1	1	NONE	1	NONE	1	
	CAMERTON	6-10	4	2	1	1	1	1	NONE	NONE	NONE	1	
	CHARLCOMBE	1-5	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	1	
	CHELWOOD	1-5	1	NONE	1	1	1	1	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	
	CHEW_TAG'IA	26-30	3	3	1	1	1	6	NONE	2	NONE	2	
	CHEW_STOKE	11-15	2	1	1	1	1	2	3	1	NONE	1	
	CLAVERTON	1-5	1	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	
	CLUTTON	11-15	3	4	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	NONE	
	COMBE_HAY	6-10	1	NONE	1	1	1	1	2	NONE	NONE	NONE	
	COMPTN_DAYDO	1-5	1	NONE	1	1	1	1	3	NONE	NONE	NONE	
	COMPTN_MARTN	1-5	1	NONE	1	1	1	1	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	
	CORSTON	6-10	2	1	1	1	1	1	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	
	DUNKERTON	1-5	2	1	1	2	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	1	
	EAST_HARPTRE	1-5	1	1	1	1	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	
	ENGLISHCOMBE	1-5	1	NONE	1	1	1	1	1	NONE	NONE	NONE	
	FARMBOROUGH	16-20	7	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	NONE	
	FARRNGTH_GNY	6-10	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	4	1	NONE	
	FRESHFORD	6-10	4	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	NONE	
	HIGH_LITTLTN	21-25	5	5	1	1	1	1	5	NONE	2	NONE	
	HINTN_ALVETT	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	
	HINTN_CHARTS	1-5	2	NONE	NONE	1	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	
	KELSTON	1-5	NONE	NONE	NONE	1	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	
	MARKSBURY	1-5	2	1	1	1	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	1	NONE	
	MONKTN_COMBE	31-35	RANGE OF	FOOD SHOPS	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	
	NEMPNT_THROLD	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	
	NEWNTN_ST_LOE	1-5	1	NONE	NONE	1	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	
	NORTH_STOKE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	
	NORTN_MALRWD	1-5	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	
	PAULTON	>50	RANGE OF	FOOD SHOPS	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	
PRISTON	1-5	1	NONE	NONE	1	1	1	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE		
PUBLOW	36-40	RANGE OF	FOOD SHOPS	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE		
ST_CATHERINE	1-5	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE		
SOUTH_STOKE	1-5	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	NONE	NONE	NONE		
SWAINSWICK	1-5	3	NONE	NONE	1	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE		
TIMSBURY	16-20	RANGE OF	FOOD SHOPS	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE		
UBLEY	1-5	2	1	1	1	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	1	NONE		
WELLOW	36-40	RANGE OF	FOOD SHOPS	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	5	NONE	2	NONE		
WEST_HARPTRE	13-20	3	2	1	1	1	1	5	2	2	NONE		
WHITCHURCH	26-30	RANGE OF	FOOD SHOPS	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE		

SOMERSET AND AVON RURAL SERVICES STUDY  
1980

PUBLIC FACILITIES  
1980

DISTRICT	PARTIC	CIRCL	PJT_OR 'HOTEL	GUEST HOUSE OR B_N_9	CINEMA	POLICE STATION	FIRE STATION	LIBRARY
WEST_SOMERSET	BICKNOLLER	1	1	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	MOBILE
	BROUGHTON_RALD	2	NOIE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	MOBILE
	BROUGHTON_REGS	2	1	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	MOBILE
	BRUSHFORD	1	1	1	*	NONE	*	MOBILE
	CATHAIPTON	2	2	>6	NONE	NONE	NONE	MOBILE
	CLATFORTH	1	1	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	MOBILE
	CROCOMBE	1	1	*	*	NONE	*	MOBILE
	CUTCOMBE	3	3	*	*	NONE	*	MOBILE
	DULVERTON	4	4	*	*	1	*	BRANCH
	DUNSTER	1	4	*	*	1	*	MOBILE
	EAST_QUANTOXH	1	NOIE	*	*	NONE	*	MOBILE
	ELFORTH	1	NOIE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	MOBILE
	EXFORD	1	2	*	*	1	*	MOBILE
	EXMOOR	1	2	*	*	NONE	*	MOBILE
	EXTON	1	1	*	*	NONE	*	MOBILE
	HOLFORD	1	1	2	*	NONE	*	MOBILE
	HULFORD	1	1	*	*	NONE	*	MOBILE
	HULSH_CHAMPF	1	1	*	*	NONE	*	DK
	KILVE	1	1	*	*	NONE	*	MOBILE
	LUCCOBE	2	NOIE	1	NONE	NONE	NONE	MOBILE
	LUXBROUGH	2	1	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	MOBILE
	MILFORD_WOUT	NOIE	NOIE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	DK
	MOKSILVER	1	1	1	NONE	NONE	NONE	MOBILE
	NETTLECOMBE	1	NOIE	*	*	NONE	*	MOBILE
	OARE	1	1	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	MOBILE
	OLD_CLEEVE	6	6	4	NONE	NONE	NONE	BRANCH
	PORLOCK	2	5	*	*	1	*	MOBILE
	SAMPFORD_BRETT	1	NOIE	*	*	NONE	*	MOBILE
	SELWORTHY	3	NOIE	3	*	NONE	*	MOBILE
	SKILGATE	1	NOIE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	MOBILE
	STODDARD	3	3	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	MOBILE
	STODURSEY	1	2	*	*	NONE	*	MOBILE
	STRINGSTON	3	NOIE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	MOBILE
	TIMBERSCOMBE	2	1	1	NONE	NONE	NONE	MOBILE
	TRENOROUGH	1	NOIE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	MOBILE
	UPTON	2	1	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	MOBILE
	WEST_QUANTOXH	1	1	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	MOBILE
	WILLITON	2	5	2	NONE	NONE	1	BRANCH
	WINSFORD	1	1	1	NONE	NONE	NONE	MOBILE
	WITCOMBE	1	NOIE	*	*	NONE	*	MOBILE
	WITCOMBE	2	2	1	NONE	NONE	NONE	MOBILE
	WITCOMBE	1	1	*	*	NONE	*	MOBILE
	WOOTTON_CRTNY	1	1	*	*	NONE	*	MOBILE

APPENDIX 12 QUESTIONNAIRE AND LETTER TO RESPONDENTS  
AVON COUNTY COUNCIL/AVON COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
SURVEY OF VILLAGE SERVICES 1983/4

VILLAGE SERVICES 1983/4

MAP OF THE PARISH OF .....Scale 1:50000

Name of Village(s)/Hamlet(s) ..... Questions answered by .....  
.....  
Name of Parish .....  
Name of District .....

IMPORTANT:

PLEASE TAKE A FEW MINUTES TO READ THROUGH THE QUESTIONNAIRE  
BEFORE STARTING TO ANSWER THE QUESTIONS.

WHEN ANSWERING THE QUESTIONS PLEASE REFER TO THE WHOLE AREA  
WITHIN THE RED LINE MARKED ON THE MAP.

Avon County Council/Avon Community Council,  
209 Redland Road, Bristol.

Tel: Bristol 736822

# POSTAL SERVICES

In the area marked on the map .....

1.1 How many post offices are there?

Please give  
number

1.2 For each Post Office

Post Office	Is it open?		If part-time number of hours open per week?	Does the P.O. sell other Goods?	
	Full- time	Part- time		Yes.	No
	Please tick		No. of hours	Please tick	
1.					
2.					
3.					

1.3 Please give details of any special postal arrangements in the area marked on the map (e.g. post master visits from another village; postman collects mail from houses as well as delivering; postman sells stamps; other shop sells stamps) .....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

In the area marked on the map .....

1.4 How many public telephone kiosks are there?

Please give  
number

1.5 How many other pay phones are there (for example in pubs or shops)?

Please give  
number

Please do  
not write in  
this column

1 - 3

4 - 5

6 - 7

8 - 11

12 - 15

16 - 19

20

21

22

23

24

## SHOPS

In the area marked on the map .....

2.1 How many shops are there?

Please give  
number

25-26

2.2 For each shop please record the goods or services it provides starting with the post office. (If there is more than one post office please list each post office separately.)

SHOP (Name if known)	GOODS/SERVICES (Please tick)															
	Groceries	Dairy prod.	Meat	Fish	Veg/Fruit	Bread	Off sales	News/confec tobacco	Cafe/rest/take away	Chemist	Clothing	Footwear	Shoe repair	Hardware	Electrical	Jewellery/leather/sports
1.																
2.																
3.																
4.																
5.																
6.																
7.																
8.																
9.																
10.																
11.																
12.																
13.																

27-28

29-30

31-32

33-34

35-36

37-38

39-40

41-42

43-44

45-46

47-48

49-50

51-52



SHOP (Name if known)	GOODS/SERVICES (Please tick)																					
	Groceries	Dairy prod.	Meat	Fish	Veg/Fruit	Bread	Off sales	News/confec/ tobacco	Cafe/rest take away	Chemist	Clothing	Footwear	Shoe repair	Hardware	Electrical	Jewellery/ leather/sports	Antiques/ gifts/craft	Hairstresser	Laundry/ laundrette	Coal	Others	
14.																						
15.																						
16.																						
17.																						
18.																						
19.																						
20.																						

EXTRA SHEETS PROVIDED IF REQUIRED

Others (e.g. street market; community shop; charity shop; farm stall)  
Please give details .....

.....

.....

.....

In the area marked on the map .....

2.3 a) Have any shops opened in the last 3 years?

Please give number

b) If yes, please give type of shop(s) .....

.....

.....

.....

2.4 a) Have any shops closed in the last 3 years?

Please give number

b) If yes, please give type of shop(s) .....

.....

.....

.....

53-54

55-56

57-58

59-60

61-62

63-64

65-66

67-68

69-70

71

72-81


82

83-92


### MOBILE SHOPS AND DELIVERY SERVICES

3.1 What mobile shops and delivery services visit the area marked on the map?

Please start with milk roundsmen and include e.g. groceries, fish and chips etc.

TRADESMAN (Name if known)	GOODS/SERVICES	FREQUENCY OF VISITS (eg. daily, weekly)
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		
8.		
9.		
10.		

93 - 95

--	--	--

96 - 98

--	--	--

99 - 01

--	--	--

102 - 104

--	--	--

105 - 107

--	--	--

08 - 0

--	--	--

111 - 113

--	--	--

114 - 116

--	--	--

117 - 119

--	--	--

120 - 122

--	--	--

### PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

4.1 How many of the following professional services have premises in the area marked on the map?

Please give number  
Open Open  
Full time Part time

Banks



123 - 125

--	--

Building Societies or their agents



--	--

Veterinary Surgeons

--

--

--	--

Others (e.g. solicitors, accountants,  
please specify)

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....



129 - 134

--	--

--	--

--	--

## TRANSPORT

In the area marked on the map .....

- 5.1 Please give details of any organised local transport facilities, other than those provided by the regular bus and train services.

### Type of Transport

Please tick

Organiser

*Social Car Scheme	<input type="checkbox"/>	.....
*Other organised car sharing	<input type="checkbox"/>	.....
Hospital car	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Taxi/private hire	<input type="checkbox"/>	
*Minibus	<input type="checkbox"/>	.....
Works bus/coach	<input type="checkbox"/>	
*Other (please state)	<input type="checkbox"/>	.....
.....		

\*Please name the organisers of these types of transport if known.

- 5.2 Please give information about the main journeys people wish to make to destinations outside the area marked on the map.

In column 2 below please use a separate line for each reason where there is more than one reason for travelling to a destination.

In column 3 please give more than one type of transport if appropriate, but if the journey cannot be made by bus, train or transport listed in Q.5.1. above please write 'None'.

Col. 1 Destinations which local people <u>want</u> to reach.	Col. 2 Reasons for going to that destination.	Col. 3 How can the journey to that destination be made (bus, train or transport listed in Q.5.1)?

162-163	164-165
166-167	168-169
170-171	172-173
174-175	176-177
178-179	180-181
182-183	184-185
186-187	188-189
190-191	192-193
194-195	196-197
198-199	200-201
202-203	204-205
206-207	208-209
210-211	212-213
214-215	216-217
218-219	220-221
222-223	224-225
226-227	228-229
230-231	232-233
234-235	236-237
238-239	240-241
242-243	244-245
246-247	248-249
250-251	252-253
254-255	256-257
258-259	260-261
262-263	264-265
266-267	268-269
270-271	272-273
274-275	276-277
278-279	280-281
282-283	284-285
286-287	288-289
290-291	292-293
294-295	296-297
298-299	300-301
302-303	304-305
306-307	308-309
310-311	312-313
314-315	316-317
318-319	320-321
322-323	324-325
326-327	328-329
330-331	332-333
334-335	336-337
338-339	340-341
342-343	344-345
346-347	348-349
350-351	352-353
354-355	356-357
358-359	360-361
362-363	364-365
366-367	368-369
370-371	372-373
374-375	376-377
378-379	380-381
382-383	384-385
386-387	388-389
390-391	392-393
394-395	396-397
398-399	400-401
402-403	404-405
406-407	408-409
410-411	412-413
414-415	416-417
418-419	420-421
422-423	424-425
426-427	428-429
430-431	432-433
434-435	436-437
438-439	440-441
442-443	444-445
446-447	448-449
450-451	452-453
454-455	456-457
458-459	460-461
462-463	464-465
466-467	468-469
470-471	472-473
474-475	476-477
478-479	480-481
482-483	484-485
486-487	488-489
490-491	492-493
494-495	496-497
498-499	500-501
502-503	504-505
506-507	508-509
510-511	512-513
514-515	516-517
518-519	520-521
522-523	524-525
526-527	528-529
530-531	532-533
534-535	536-537
538-539	540-541
542-543	544-545
546-547	548-549
550-551	552-553
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562-563	564-565
566-567	568-569
570-571	572-573
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582-583	584-585
586-587	588-589
590-591	592-593
594-595	596-597
598-599	600-601
602-603	604-605
606-607	608-609
610-611	612-613
614-615	616-617
618-619	620-621
622-623	624-625
626-627	628-629
630-631	632-633
634-635	636-637
638-639	640-641
642-643	644-645
646-647	648-649
650-651	652-653
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662-663	664-665
666-667	668-669
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694-695	696-697
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702-703	704-705
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710-711	712-713
714-715	716-717
718-719	720-721
722-723	724-725
726-727	728-729
730-731	732-733
734-735	736-737
738-739	740-741
742-743	744-745
746-747	748-749
750-751	752-753
754-755	756-757
758-759	760-761
762-763	764-765
766-767	768-769
770-771	772-773
774-775	776-777
778-779	780-781
782-783	784-785
786-787	788-789
790-791	792-793
794-795	796-797
798-799	800-801
802-803	804-805
806-807	808-809
810-811	812-813
814-815	816-817
818-819	820-821
822-823	824-825
826-827	828-829
830-831	832-833
834-835	836-837
838-839	840-841
842-843	844-845
846-847	848-849
850-851	852-853
854-855	856-857
858-859	860-861
862-863	864-865
866-867	868-869
870-871	872-873
874-875	876-877
878-879	880-881
882-883	884-885
886-887	888-889
890-891	892-893
894-895	896-897
898-899	900-901
902-903	904-905
906-907	908-909
910-911	912-913
914-915	916-917
918-919	920-921
922-923	924-925
926-927	928-929
930-931	932-933
934-935	936-937
938-939	940-941
942-943	944-945
946-947	948-949
950-951	952-953
954-955	956-957
958-959	960-961
962-963	964-965
966-967	968-969
970-971	972-973
974-975	976-977
978-979	980-981
982-983	984-985
986-987	988-989
990-991	992-993
994-995	996-997
998-999	1000-1001

# GARAGES

In the area marked on the map .....

6.1 How many garages are there?

Please give number



6.2. What services are provided by the garage(s)?

Please tick

Petrol Sales

☐

182

Vehicle sales

☐

183

Motor vehicle repairs

☐

184

Other services

(e.g. grocery, confectionery, post office,  
vehicle hire, repairs to agricultural  
machinery) please list .....

185-189


# PUBLIC FACILITIES

Does the area on the map have .....

7.1 Churches/Places of Worship

Please give number


190


Public Houses

7.2 Community meeting places:

Please tick

a) Village Hall or Community Centre

☐

192

b) School Hall (available for public use)

☐

193

c) Other public meeting rooms (e.g. church  
hall, scout hall, W.I. hall, pubroom),  
please name .....

☐

194

195-199

### CLUBS AND ASSOCIATIONS

8.1 What clubs and associations meet within the area marked on the map?

Please tick

Women's Institute

W.R.V.S.

Royal British Legion

Church or Chapel Groups (e.g. Mothers Union)

Drama/Music Clubs (include choirs)

Old Age Pensioners' clubs (include luncheon clubs)

Youth clubs

Scouts/Cubs/Guides/Brownies

Other clubs or associations (please list)

.....

.....

.....

199

200

201

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207 - 211

212

213

214

215

### RECREATION FACILITIES AND PUBLIC OPEN SPACE

9.1 Does the area marked on the map have any of the following available for public use?

Please tick

Common land/village green

Recreation ground/playing field a) public

b) school

c) works

Children's playground

Tennis Courts

Outdoor bowls green

Sports pavilion

Skittles alley

Allotments

Other recreation facilities (e.g. swimming pool, separate football pitch, squash courts, riding school) - please specify

.....

.....

212

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222 - 226

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226

### EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

10.1 We already have information about County Council schools provision, but we would like to know whether the area marked on the map has any of the following:

Please tick

Pre-school playgroup/'Mothers and Toddlers' Group ☐

Privately organised nursery school ☐

Adult education classes ☐

Other educational facilities (e.g. private school) not provided by the County Council - please specify

.....

.....

227

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230-232

### HEALTH SERVICES

11.1 Does the area marked on the map have any of the following health services?

Please tick

Health Centre ☐

Doctors Surgery (other than in health centre)

    With dispensary ☐

    Without dispensary ☐

Dental Surgery (include part-time, but not school dental service) ☐

Optician (include part-time) ☐

Chiropodist (include part-time) ☐

Infant Welfare Clinic ☐

Other Clinics (e.g. ante-natal) please specify .....

.....

.....

.....

233

234-239

240-242

11.2 If the area marked on the map lacks any of these services to which other village(s) or towns do residents normally go to obtain them?

Doctor .....

Dentist .....

Optician .....

Chiropodist .....

Infant Welfare Clinic .....

Other Clinics (e.g. ante-natal) please specify .....

.....

.....

## EMPLOYMENT

In the area marked on the map .....

12.1 How many working farms are there?

Please give  
number

7

263-264

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12.2 We should also like to know something about other local employment within the area marked on the map. As far as possible, please list all places of work, including for example, small businesses, self-employed people, hotels, etc.

NAME OF FIRM/ORGANISATION	TYPE OF BUSINESS

265-266

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267 - 268

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249 - 250

281	163
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21-232	

255-256

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256 - 256

[illegible]

257	258

11

259 - 260

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261 - 262

148-164

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265 - 266

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267 - 268

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269 - 270

231 - 232

211 - 212	

275-276

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275 - 276

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277 - 278

1111

279 - 280





In the area marked on the map .....

12.5 Do you know of any unused buildings or land which would be suitable for use by appropriate small businesses? Please give details:

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

GENERAL

13.1 Are there any voluntary/self-help schemes operating locally which provide additional services to the community? (You need not include any you have already mentioned)

.....  
.....  
.....

13.2 Do you consider that any of the facilities that you have listed in the questionnaire are at all likely to close in the near future? If so, please give details:

.....  
.....  
.....

13.3 Are there any particular problems affecting people in the village?

.....  
.....  
.....

13.4 Do you think there is anything that could be done to alleviate these problems?

.....  
.....  
.....

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP.

PILOT

# AVON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

209 Redland Road, Bristol BS6 6YU Telephone (0272) 736822



BOF/DJW

12th November 1983

Dear

Three years ago the Avon Community Council co-operated with the Bristol University Department of Geography in a survey of rural service provision in the parishes of south Avon, as part of a larger research project, funded by the Social Science Research Council, which was looking at the changing status of rural services in the old county of Somerset. During the following year the survey was extended to the north of the county, into the Districts of Northavon and Kingswood, as a joint venture between the University, the Community Council and the Avon County Council Planning Department.

The information gleaned from that 1980 study, the first of its type to be carried out in Avon, provided us with a much clearer idea of the trends affecting service provision to rural communities, and a number of developments since that time have been aimed at supporting particular services, such as the village shop, post office and telephone.

For that work to be of longterm relevance, it is necessary to maintain up-to-date records. To do this, the Community Council and the Avon County Planning Department, again with the help of the research team from the Department of Geography at the University of Bristol, are currently working to up-date the information gathered in 1980. This will enable us to examine changes which have occurred since the earlier study and to consider ways of improving access for rural people to a range of services.

The major part of the up-dating programme will entail a postal questionnaire survey of village facilities, to be circulated to all parish councils and Womens Institutes in Avon early in the New Year. Before embarking on an exercise of this magnitude we need, of course, to test the effectiveness of the design of that questionnaire and to do this we are running a pilot study during October, approaching one person with sound local knowledge, in a small random sample of eight parishes.

/...

President: Sir John Wills Bart.TD. Chairman: Rev Jeremy Martineau. Director: Mrs Judith Graham-Jones  
Rural Services/Local Councils/Small Industries/History Societies/Village Halls/Rural Voice/Community Building Project  
Drama Groups/Playing Fields/Conservation/Field Fare/Rural Employment/Environmental Issues

- 2 -

One of the parishes selected in the sample is and we would be very grateful for your help in completing the enclosed draft questionnaire and returning it to me in the attached pre-paid envelope, by at latest Thursday, 27th October.

One or two features of the questionnaire perhaps require a little further explanation. You will notice that the map extract on the front cover of the questionnaire form delineates a specific part of the parish. To avoid duplication it is important that the information provided in the questionnaire is confined to the area marked, unless the question specifically asks for details relating to a wider area.

Secondly, certain technical information about specific statutory services, such as water, energy, education and others, is already held and monitored by the County Planning Department, or is available from other statutory sources. Questions about these services have therefore been excluded from the questionnaire, to avoid duplication and wasting of respondents time. Nonetheless, if you consider that important items have been omitted, or wish to raise any particular point about the questionnaire, we will be grateful for your comments.

Thank you in advance for your help in our study. If you need further information about the survey before completing your questionnaire, please do not hesitate to contact me. Meanwhile, I look forward to receiving your completed form and any additional comments by 27th October.

With thanks.

Yours sincerely,

Bernice O'Flynn  
Countryside Officer